Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-022 *4 February 1993*

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Cuba

Electricity Enterprise Official Explains Outages

FL0302190193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] In a telephone conversation with Lidio Ramon, the deputy director general of the Electricity Enterprise, reporter Zenaida Costales requested details about the power outages which have occurred in recent days throughout the country.

[Begin recording] [Costales] In recent days, unscheduled power outages have affected a large part of the population of Havana City Province. I would like you to explain why this is the case.

[Ramon] Yes, it is true. On Sunday and Monday, not only Havana City but the entire national territory had severe power outages. Yesterday, after more than 40 hours of arduous work, the Electric Union succeeded in repairing the breakdowns that had taken place at the Antonio Guiteras Power Plant in Matanzas and the Antonio Maceo Power Plant in Santiago de Cuba. These breakdowns caused those severe power outages on Sunday and Monday, which I have already explained. These were unscheduled interruptions in electricity service throughout the country.

Likewise, the fuel supply to the Cienfuegos Power Plant was resumed. This was another cause that contributed to these outages. So now, both the breakdowns and the fuel supply to that power plant were fixed yesterday. Electricity service was normalized yesterday throughout the country.

[Costales] What will the outages schedule be during the rest of the month? Are any changes anticipated?

[Ramon] No, we explained yesterday that the schedule of power outages will continue to be implemented throughout the country. That is, it will be implemented in accordance with the plan that has been established in each province and each region. That is for right now. You know these things can change. They depend on a set of limitations that are well known and could increase. But starting yesterday, our intention is to implement the schedule that has been established, the schedule that has been planned for the different provinces. [end recording]

Bilateral Committee Opens Sessions in Havana

PA0402131093 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Report by Marianela Samper]

[Text] Cuban and Mexican businessmen will open the 10th plenary session of the Cuban-Mexican Bilateral Committee in Havana on 4 February. Economic issues of mutual interest and trade relations between the two countries will be discussed by participants during the two-day meeting.

The Mexican delegation is headed by Marcos Dorante, who is accompanied by some 25 businessmen and members of various associations. The bilateral committee was created in July 1988 through an agreement signed by the Cuban Chamber of Commerce and the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs, CEMAI. The basic objective has been preserved since the committee's creation; specifically, strengthening economic and trade relations between the two nations.

The agenda for the two-day meeting in Havana includes, among other aspects, the promotion of information on opportunities offered by Cuba for various trade associations as well as information on Mexican foreign policies and their implications for the island.

Mexico is the Latin American nation that has traditionally maintained political, economic, and trade relations with Cuba. In 1992, for example, Cuba was visited by a delegation of the National Association of the Processing Industry, Canacintra, with the purpose of promoting among its 90,000 registered industries the wide range of possibilities offered by the largest island of the Antilles.

On that occasion Canacintra President Vicente Gutierrez said he expected investments made by both countries would reach some $160 million during the current year.

The Havana International Fair, during its 10 years of trade promotion, is another good example of the participation of Mexican businessmen, who say they will continue doing business with Cuba because of its importance in preserving sources of employment and in the interest of diversifying their investments abroad.

Second Meeting of Parlatino Begins in Havana

FL0302152293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The need for Latin American unity and integration to face the demands and challenges of these times were points mentioned by all the speakers at the opening session of the second meeting of the Latin American Parliament, Parlatino, which will run until 4 February at the Hotel Nacional in Havana. With the presence of 51 deputies and senators from 14 countries of the region, the participants will cover an agenda that includes issues concerning health care, the sale of medicines, and job termination.

In his speech, alternate Parlatino President Mr. Juan Adolfo Singer said that unity is difficult, but if we do not have the courage, talent, and daring to build a Latin American community, we will be turning our backs on reality.

[Begin Singer recording] This is the greatest, most important, and most beautiful challenge Latin America faces. I want to say a few things about this. No country in Latin America, not countries the size of Cuba or Uruguay—my country, for example—or even countries of the size and

potential of Argentina, Brazil, or Mexico—the three largest countries on the continent—have a future alone. If Latin America does not work and accomplish its unity, it will have no answer to the needs of its people. [end recording]

Today, the working session of the Parlatino health commission will begin with a plenary session and commission work concerning the different issues on the agenda of the Havana meeting. Cuba, in the person of Dr. Noel Gonzalez, is chairing this commission, which held its first meeting in March 1992, also in our country.

Fidel Castro Attends Inaguration of Pedagogy-93

FL0302005293 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] On 2 February, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro participated in the inauguration of Pedagogy-93 at the Karl Marx Theater in which Latin American [words indistinct] are also participating.

Rafael Bernal, the first vice minister of Education, gave the opening speech. Mexico, with 2,300 delegates, and Argentina with 1,300 are the countries with the most participants.

[Begins Bernal recording] We do hope, above all, to the discussion [words indistinct] of the problems for this great meeting to draw the path toward a legitimate Latin American pedagogy.

PRC Delegation Arrives in Havana 3 Feb

FL0302025693 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] This morning a PRC delegation arrived in Havana by invitation of the Cuban Government. The delegation is headed by Comrade Luo Shiling, the minister of the State Price and Merchandise Bureau [as heard]. He was greeted at the airport by his Cuban counterpart Arturo Guzman Pascual. The Chinese delegation will fulfill an extensive program of activities of economic and scientific interest.

Antigua and Barbuda

Foreign Minister Meets With New Mexican Ambassador

FL0402135393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1233 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Feb 4, CANA—Mexico's new ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Sergio Romero Cuevas, is paying an official visit to St. John's. The visit is part of efforts "to improve bilateral relation" between both countries, a statement from the Antigua and Barbuda Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The Mexican envoy met with Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Affairs Minister Lester Bird and held "wide-ranging discussions which examined areas of mutual concern and interest," according to the ministry. Matters discussed included the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the institutional relationship between Mexico and the Caribbean Community (Caricom). Bird and the diplomat also had talks on Mexico's effort to head an international agency, a draft agreement on technical and scientific co-operation between both countries, and a proposal to reform the charter of the Organisation of American States, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Bird and Romero Cuevas "agreed that trade between Antigua and Barbuda and Mexico needed to be improved, and they looked at the private sectors of both countries to take the initiative in this regard," it added. The Mexican ambassador said that his country "was willing to offer technical assistance to Antigua and Barbuda in a number of areas including agricultural credit to small and medium growers, transfer of agricultural technology, tropical fruit growing, vegetable production, and promotion of investment in the rural sector."

To help improve relations it was proposed that an honorary consul for Mexico be appointed here.

Haiti

Senate Votes for Bazin Dismissal Resolution

FL0302210993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The Senate of the Republic is divided into two groups, one in the audience room and one in the diplomatic room. Two different procedures have also been adopted for running the two branches of the Senate. Two days before the end of their mandate on 4 February, five opposition senators came to the assistance of their colleagues from the constitutionalist bloc and voted for a resolution dismissing Prime Minister Marc Bazin. To succeed during this session, the senators benefited from the moral support of political leaders who were present yesterday in parliament. Moreover, the senators of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion, supported by the newly elected senators, are preparing for a session in the National Assembly convened by Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton, who is the president of this group. Using veiled words, the parliamentarians of the Alliance mentioned the loss of office materials that have allegedly been spirited away by their opposition colleagues.

Senators Propose Mandating Army To Oust Bazin

FL0402011093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] It was at the conclusion of a meeting of ten representatives of political parties that the Senate, led by the opposition, decided to dismiss Marc

Bazin. The National Front for Change and Democracy, the Movement for National Reconstruction, the Union of Haitian Constitutionalists [UCH], the Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti, the Christian Democratic Assembly, and others were invited to voice their views on this current junction and to offer proposals for solving the crisis. This segment of the political class that supports the steps being taken by the office headed by Senator Firmin Jean-Louis supported the 31 January Senate resolution declaring the 18 January elections null and void. It would be wrong to say there was no divergence of views regarding strategies for resolving the crisis. However, according to the political leaders, the presence of Marc Bazin as head of state seems to constitute a considerable obstacle on the path to a desirable solution. While indicating that the Haitian Armed Forces were still supporting the consensus government, Rene Theodore, Eddy Volel, and Sylvan Jolibois took a stand with the other political leaders invited to the Senate on 2 February to ask for Prime Minister Marc Bazin's resignation:

[Begin recording] [Theodore, in Creole] Bazin is a monstrosity. We ask Bazin to leave and he puts the key under the door, as he has no president to give the key to.

[Jolibois, in Creole] We ask Marc Bazin to leave power immediately.

[Volel] Bazin should not be there. If he is there, it is by force and because the Army command put a gangster in the palace. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rene Theodore, UCH leader, believes that parliament has enough constitutional prerogatives to force the Army to face its responsibilities. Jean-Claude Roy suggests the Senate use those prerogatives to dismiss Marc Bazin by a motion of censure that the Army would be in charge of enforcing:

[Begin Roy recording, in Creole] Many people ask that the Army make a second bid for power to oust Bazin. The Army is not acting. I have always shared the idea that the Army has not yet found the justification to act. I am saying today that if this Senate passes a resolution dismissing the government by act of censure, the Army will be forced to act. If not, it will reveal its true face and where it stands. [end recording]

Without any reservation, the senator of the opposition used this (?arm). In a session held a few minutes later, the opposing senators unanimously offered a motion of censure against Prime Minister Marc Bazin. Through this act, the Senate, led by Firmin Jean-Louis, has asked the relevant institutions, including the Army, to assist in the execution of these decisions. Rony Mondestin and his colleague think that any solution to the Haitian crisis implies a dismissal of the current government. He said that President Aristide is entitled to appoint a prime minister:

[Begin Mondestin recording, in Creole] It is not just my opinion. Marc Bazin up until yesterday was asking President Aristide to recognize him as prime minister. On 1 January, Bazin called President Aristide to wish him happy new year. [end recording]

In any case, following this motion of censure, the Senate of 13 also adopted a resolution inviting the representatives of the various sectors of society to join it on 4 February to consider concrete solutions to the Haitian crisis.

Caputo, Bazin on Conditions for Sending Mission

FL0302163893 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] According to what we have learned, Dante Caputo, the UN and OAS mediator in the Haitian crisis, met with Prime Minister Marc Bazin on 2 February. The talks were on the conditions that the OAS and the United Nations will establish on the sending of a civilian mission to Haiti. On 27 January, Mr. Bazin rejected, on behalf of the national sovereignty, the conditions proposed by Mr. Caputo. He pointed out that the Army, the parliament, and the government he is leading were not against the principle of the civilian mission. Representatives of several sectors—including the private sector, the Catholic Church, the Protestant Church, and the Marc Bazin government—prepared for Mr. Caputo a counterproposal which they deemed in compliance with the national sovereignty.

The 26 citizens, who formed this working group, had been meeting since the weekend to analyze the Dante Caputo document. The group should have included 27 citizens, but the Reformed Churches [plural as heard] decided not to send a representative, saying the task was a political undertaking. Because they do not want to be involved in political matters, they choose not to send any representative.

The other citizens met and prepared a counterproposal. The full text has not yet been given to the press. Perhaps Dante Caputo discussed this counterproposal with Marc Bazin. Dante Caputo's stay in Haiti will continue today, 3 February. He came to Port-au-Prince on the afternoon of 1 February. He was the focus of a group of approximately 300 demonstrators who were protesting his visit to Haiti and the interference of foreign countries in Haitian internal affairs. Several journalists, who were covering the demonstration at the Port-au-Prince airport and the Montana Hotel, received threats from the demonstrators.

Army Cautions Against Human Rights Violations

FL0302225493 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The general headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces has issued a press release advising that the people must respect all citizens under all circumstances, the rights of everyone, and private property. The general headquarters says no departure from this principle will

be tolerated and that orders have been given to the forces of order to intervene against all who do not respect citizens, people's integrity, and private property.

Journalist Missing Since Demonstration Attack

FL0302215193 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Radio Tropic FM is searching for one of its journalists who has been reported missing for almost two days. Colson Dorme, who works as a reporter for Tropic FM, has been reported missing since the 1 February demonstration at the Port-au-Prince airport. Tropic FM officials have attempted to find him at both the police department and the general hospital morgue. They have no idea where Colson might be, according to another journalist at that radio station.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Radio Tropic FM journalist] We have tried to check with the police, especially the Anti-Gang Service. They tell us they arrested only one person yesterday and that person was arrested in the Salomon Market. We have tried to check with the morgue. We have gotten no results there. We will keep going to higher authorities so we can at least acquire some knowledge about what happened because everybody is worried. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Radio Soleil correspondent] But so far, you do not know whether or not Colson was among the group of journalists attacked by demonstrators during yesterday's march?

[Radio Tropic FM journalist] Yes, we have been told that.... [pauses] According to the—not quite accurate—information we received, he was with them; he was a bit afraid so he stayed near another photographer for protection. However, he had not been seen among the crowd from the moment of turmoil when the people were dispersed. [end recording]

A day before the disappearance of the Tropic FM journalist, photojournalist from LE ROULEAU, Hans Bazar, was the victim of attack by a group of demonstrators at the airport. AFP journalists and other foreign journalists received threats on 1 February. In a letter of protest published on the subject, the LE ROULEAU officials reminded people that in the execution of their duties, journalists have the right to ask questions of any demonstrator and to take pictures of anybody who is demonstrating in the streets. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

PM Patterson Maintains Stand on Capital Punishment

FL0302153693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1432 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 3, CANA—Defying pressure from regional and international human rights groups, Jamaica's prime minister, P.J. Patterson, has vowed that his government will not back down from its commitment to execute convicted murderers.

"...We find that there are persons who are opposed to hanging and are seeking what to tell us to do," the official JAMPRESS news agency quoted the prime minister as saying in a town hall meeting in the north coast town of Trelawny. "I simply have to say to them, with much respect, that no threat is going to change the decision of the government."

Jamaica, with more than 200 men on death row, has come under pressure to end capital punishment from organisations such as the local Human Rights Council, the regional human rights group, Caribbean Rights, and the London-based, Amnesty International. But the sharp response from the normally mild-mannered Patterson was apparently triggered by anti-capital punishment members of the British Government who have suggested that London cut aid to Kingston over the issue. The latest criticisms of Jamaica came as the government prepared to carry out the first executions since 1987—a move that could lead to scores being taken to the gallows.

Patterson said that his cabinet had spent a great deal of time deliberating the issue of capital punishment and concluded that the present level of violent crime would not lend support to the abolition of capital punishment. Opinion surveys here have consistently come out overwhelmingly in favour of capital punishment.

Jamaica has among the world's highest per capita murder rates. Last year there were 629 murders here, a 12.1 per cent increase on the year before. And that did not include the 135 persons killed by the police and the 21 killed by security guards and private citizens in cases usually classified as justifiable homocides.

Despite the government's declaration that it will not bow to external pressures, the administration has offered concessions to critics of the system who claim that many of the convicts on death row were poor, illiterate and, often, poorly represented.

Last year the government passed legislation that allows for two categories of murder—capital murder, which attracts the death penalty and non-capital murder to be punished by prison sentences. Capital murder would be applied to planned killings, as opposed committed in fits of passion as well as those against targeted officials or committed during offences such as robbery, rape, and terrorism. Under the law the courts have been asked to review the cases of the 270 persons then on death row to determine those who should be hanged and those who should have their original sentences commuted.

Patterson in defending the government's action said the administration had a right to be concerned about the level, nature and pattern of violent crime in Jamaica. "I have taken the view that we cannot allow the lawless few to terrorise the many who are peaceful and law-abiding citizens," said the prime minister.

El Salvador

Merino on UNOC's Campaign Against U.S. Tariff

PA0302193393 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Report by Edwin Gongora]

[Text] Although the National Peasant-Worker Unity [UNOC] has launched an intensive campaign to try to block the U.S. preferential tariffs for Salvadoran products, Vice President Francisco Merino felt that the campaign would not succeed because the U.S. Commerce Department is aware of the role the Salvadoran Government is playing in labor rights.

[Begin Merino recording] This will certainly not have the results they expect. On the contrary, they are serving as an example to the department of the freedom that exists in the country. The government guarantees freedom of expression and thought. Using that freedom they are engaging in an unpatriotic action that, if successful, could affect the labor sector. [end recording]

The official said the Forum for Economic and Social Consensus could serve to find a solution to this problem. He added that the forum is not working as it should.

[Begin Merino recording] The forum must become more dynamic. We know that the meetings are held too far apart, and that means the agendas are always packed. The forum must redouble its efforts to solve the problems. [end recording]

Merino also said the Supreme Court of Justice has begun an investigation into why Soyopango Second Penal Judge Jose Luis Cepeda ordered the release of two individuals who kidnapped a minor for three days when there was sufficient proof to keep them in jail.

FMLN's Shafik Handal on Nondestruction of Weapons

PA0302153093 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report by Marvin Galea]

[Text] Jorge Shafik Handal, general coordinator of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], has said that that organization has not destroyed all its weapons due to overall noncompliance that includes the government. He added that it is also due to a delayed reaction by combatants in view of the government's noncompliance with agreements concerning the Army purge and land transfers.

As we all know, in a report to the UN Security Council the UN secretary general said the FMLN has not fully complied with the agreements. Here is what Shafik Handal had to say:

[Begin Shafik Handal recording] This must be viewed within the context of overall compliance and noncompliance with the agreements. As of now, the agreements on the Army purge have not been complied with. There are also problems with the agreement on the land transfer. The first phase, which should have ended on 31 January, had to be rescheduled. We must also stress that for months former FMLN combatants have not been receiving the necessary subsidies agreed upon and programmed to support their training. This has seriously affected our companeros. This situation should be viewed within that context. We believe the United Nations and the Security Council will see our point. [end recording]

Shafik Handal said that the FMLN has not ordered former combatants not to destroy their weapons, but he considers it a logical reaction on their part in view of the government's noncompliance.

[Begin Shafik Handal recording] We have not ordered a delay in the destruction of weapons in certain parts of the country. It is a logical reaction from combatants who are frustrated by noncompliance with certain agreements that should have been implemented by now. [end recording]

Contrary to Shafik Handal's opinion, other FMLN sources consulted by Radio Venceremos said the delay in destroying weapons is basically due to operational and logistical problems. The sources added that they hoped the process would end successfully in the next few days.

Guatemala

Foreign Minister Remarks on Human Rights Violations

PA0402010493 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Gonzalo Memendez Park has returned from a tour of seven South American countries after a diplomatic campaign to report the government position on the peace dialogue, human rights, and refugees. Menendez referred to two recent reports on the human rights situation in Guatemala, meaning the report issued by the U.S. State Department and that issued by the Human Rights Ombudsman.

[Begin recording] [Menendez] We do not agree with some of the things stated in them, but I think the reports clearly recognize the progress achieved on this issue. Guatemala's situation has not worsened or reached a stalemate. In fact, it continues to improve every day. This is recognized by all serious organizations and people who analyze the human rights situation in Guatemala. They have stated that we are continuing to make progress and the statistics prove it. They also recognize the government's determination to struggle so Guatemala may solve this problem.

[Unidentified reporter] Delegations went abroad to discuss the human rights situation in Guatemala. What did the Guatemalan Human Rights Ombudsman say about this?

[Menendez] The Human Rights Ombudsman recognizes the progress we have made. He also recognizes that statistics have dropped, meaning the human rights situation has improved. He has stated that Guatemala must continue along these lines. He said the case will be reviewed at the United Nations. I watched him talk about this issue on 2 February on a local television program. I was quite pleased with his position.

[Reporter] How isolated are the cases involving human rights violations aside from the ones perpetrated by security forces?

[Menendez] Referring to the human rights issue, I believe you must bear in mind three important things: One, you must separate reports from the facts in these cases. You may hear many reports but you must be objective and analyze them before they are brought before the community. You must first establish if you have a real case. Also, you must separate cases that are considered human rights violations from those that are common crimes. You must be careful how you handle the information. Third, you must bear in mind this is not government policy, meaning human rights violations. This has been fully proved and [words indistinct] have accepted the fact this is not government policy. [end recording]

CPR Announces Signing of Agreement With Army

PA0402153893 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 11

[Text] Guatemala, 3 February 1993—At a news conference, the leaders of the Communities of Resistant People [CPR] of the mountains and Ixcan announced the signing of an agreement between the Army and the CPR. They also accused the Armed Forces of responsibility for several violent incidents. They invited Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa to visit the resistant communities in the mountains and Ixcan to verify the reports.

The news conference took place at CPR headquarters, which is located in Zone 1 of Guatemala City. Leaders Sebastian Seto Raymundo and Marcos Ramirez Vargas stated that on 8 January in Cantabal they met with several representatives of international human rights organizations and the Guatemalan Army. The meeting was organized by a group of civilians from Ixcan called the Founders for Peace in Ixcan.

Mr. Sebastian Seto Ramirez [name as published] said: "During the 8 January meeting we reached some good agreements with the Guatemalan Army, which makes us very happy. We managed to get General Jose Luis Quilo Ayuso, the deputy defense minister, to recognize the CPR as a group of civilians."

"The Army and local authorities agreed to allow free transit and trade between the CPR and neighboring communities. The Army agreed to respect the establishment of a market place at the Veracruz Center in Ixcan."

"The armed institution agreed to respect the visit that will take place from 15 to 25 February and to offer a warm welcome to those who come. The CPR, therefore, makes these agreements public and ask that they be fulfilled to the letter, as has been promised."

"We are afraid the Army will harass us in the coming days, as there is a large concentration of military units in Ixcan. There are eight military headquarters in Ixcan and a larger military buildup than usual. As a result, we fear attacks similar to those in 1987 and 1988."

"We recently sent a note inviting Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa to participate in a public debate to discuss the problems of the people of the mountains and of Ixcan. He did not accept and that is why we have made these reports publicly."

"Today we are inviting him and Gen. Quilo Ayuso to join us in a visit we will pay to the resistant communities in the mountain regions and Ixcan, which will take place from 15 to 25 February, so they can see for themselves that we are civilians and have no ties to the guerrillas, as they have said."

"We ask the Army and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] to respect the lives of those who will visit the mountain communities. We realize this is a conflict area, and this is why we are asking the URNG and the Army for their understanding, to prevent any attacks," the CPR representatives concluded.

Captain Alberto Yon Rivera, the military spokesman, gave details of the meeting between military personnel, Ixcan residents, human rights organizations, Prodere [Program for the Development of Refugees and Displaced Persons in Central America], and the CPR representatives in Sierra and Ixcan. Yon Rivera said the meeting, which was held in Cantabal, had been called by the Ixcan Pro-Peace Committee and not by CPR representatives.

Yon Rivera said the members of the Ixcan Pro-Peace Committee are the men and women of Ixcan who want peace. He added that several Army officers attended the meeting. The group was headed by Deputy Defense Minister Jose Luis Quilo Ayuso and included 22d Military Zone Commander Francisco Marin and other high-ranking officers.

Army Offered All Its Support

Yon Rivera said: "The meeting between the Army, human rights organizations, and CPR members was historic and of great importance. Several matters, including very important topics, such as the free trade of

products and freedom of movement for area residents, were discussed. The Army agreed with the positions presented at the meeting and will even buy products, not only from the Veracruz Cooperative, but also from all the basic grain producers. The Army will buy such products to feed the soldiers and, at the same time, to help the people by purchasing their produce."

"The meeting was held in a pleasant and cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding. We would like to emphasize that the Pro-Peace Committee members were the organizers of this important event and not the CPR Sierra and Ixcan representatives who live in Guatemala City as they want people to believe. Such an action is regrettable as the CPR leaders who participated in the meeting are from Guatemala City and not from Sierra."

"At the meeting, Marcos Ramirez, one of the CPR representatives who traveled from Guatemala City to the area, mentioned several community problems, mainly unsanitary living conditions, and he requested general cooperation to attain peace and allow the people to work and live in peace so they can progress in the region."

Mr. Ramirez made specific requests. Basically, he requested freedom of movement for the people at the Veracruz Cooperative to allow them to sell their agricultural produce." [no opening quotation mark as published]

Insidious and Deadly Blows...

"At the meeting, Deputy Defense Minister Jose Luis Quilo stated that the Armed Forces had suffered insidious and criminal URNG blows, especially with the actions of the Poor People's Guerrilla Army. The latter has established its operation and supply centers in the area and not only has caused death and destruction but has also involved the honest residents, who work and deserve to live in peace just as everyone else, in the country's violence."

Cear Director Says Menchu's Charges 'Total Lies'

PA0302213093 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Report on interview with Sergio Mollinedo, director of the Special Commission for Assistance to Repatriates, Cear, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] The repatriation settlement at Site 14 in Quiche is still facing a few problems, the Special Commission for Assistance to Repatriates has reported. Sergio Mollinedo commented on this process [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Rigoberta Menchu has said they believe (?dozens) of repatriates to be immigrants.

[Mollinedo] I respect Mrs. Menchu as a Nobel Prize laureate. She has leveled two charges against us: that the settlement is controlled by soldiers and [words indistinct] the National Fund for Peace [Fonapaz]; and the second charge is the one you just mentioned.

I cannot understand how a Nobel peace laureate is seeking confrontation by saying total lies instead of seeking consensus, dialogue, and rapprochement. Mrs. Menchu's statements are totally false.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] members of Fonapaz and Cear are soldiers?

[Mollinedo] The doors of my institution are open. You may review our personnel roster. Mrs. Menchu's remarks are complete lies. I do not know her intentions. The doors of my institution are open to the local and foreign media and to Mrs. Menchu herself. She has never been here to confirm what I am saying. It is easy to hide behind a Nobel Prize to level false charges without presenting evidence. I challenge Mrs. Menchu to back her charges before the courts and the international community.

Defense Files Writ for Annulment in Mack Case

PA0402040993 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 12

[Excerpt] Defense lawyer Cesar Iriondo Franco filed a writ at the 3d Court on 3 February to request the annulment of a deposition made by Jose Tejeda Enriquez, the key witness in the trial against Noel de Jesus Beteta Alvarez, who is accused of murdering Myrna Mack.

The defense lawyer said the court must order an annulment because the procedure was not carried out at the stipulated date and time, so he was unable to attend the event and verify the testimony of witnesses in the case.

When asked about private accuser Helen Mack's decision to file perjury charges against Maria Ester Palacios Suarez de Melgar, a military hospital doctor, he said it is an attempt to harass the doctor, because she acted in an ethical way.

Helen Mack said the annulment request is not applicable because the deposition was not given during a probationary period. Instead, it is part of a preliminary procedure because it is the first deposition given in connection with the case.

Mack said: If Iriondo Franco requested the annulment of Tejeda Enriquez' deposition he must also request the annulment of Palacios Suarez de Melgar's deposition. In that deposition she states Beteta was sick on the day my sister was assassinated. That deposition was not made on the day and time stipulated by the court either.

Referring to the report sent by the Guatemalan Social Security Institute concerning the status of Beteta's right hand, stating he could move it, the private accuser said the report coincides with the coroner's report.

Helen Mack added: The only contradictory thing is Dr. Palacios Suarez de Melgar's deposition, so I filed perjury charges against her on 2 February. The doctor's crime is proved by the medical files and expert reports. She has not told the truth. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Inmate Can Leave Jail

PA0402044393 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 6

[Report by Carlos Garcia Urrea]

[Text] Government Minister Francisco Perdomo has denied reports that inmate Noel de Jesus Beteta can leave jail whenever he wants. Perdomo categorically denied reports published in the media to that effect.

Perdomo said that Beteta is a "special case" because he is implicated in Myrna Mack's murder, one of the crimes that has attracted international attention. He added that Perdomo is subject to special security measures.

Perdomo said he was surprised by the reports and does not know where the press could have gotten the information.

Government Ministry sources consulted by EL GRAFICO confirmed that Noel de Jesus Beteta was not in jail in Pavoncito when the government and deputy government ministers investigated his whereabouts.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said that one of the deputy ministers told Perdomo that he suspected Beteta would try to escape. That was one of the reasons why the minister tried to confirm that he was in jail in Pavoncito.

The sources added that Beteta apparently had been taken to the Guatemalan Social Security Institute and that it had been authorized only by a signature and the necessary security measures had not been taken.

Nicaragua

Chamorro Says Military Service Not Mandatory

PA0302234393 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] In response to ill-natured reports by the media, President Violeta Chamorro said on 2 February: There will be no mandatory military service as long as I remain in the government. I am leading the country and all I want is peace.

She said abolishing mandatory military service was one of her main concerns during her political campaign. She spoke with local and international journalists at the end of her visit to open a public works project between Rivas and Granada.

[Begin recording] [Chamorro] I believe the people who say these things are unpatriotic. No one wants obligatory military service. That would be foolish.

[First unidentified reporter] Many peasants participated in a demonstration in Chontales on 31 January at the invitation of newspapers to protest that you have not abolished military service.

[Chamorro] What can I say? One of my greatest concerns during the campaign was to abolish military service. Many Nicaraguans, some of whom are here and some of whom stayed home, can attest to my assertion that there is no mandatory military service. As long as Violeta continues to lead the government—and my term will end in four years and nine months—there will be no military service. [applause] Thanks for the applause. I applaud, too.

[Second unidentified reporter] Certain radio stations said that mandatory military service still exists under the Constitution.

[Chamorro] We inherited many things in the Constitution, but I am the leader of this country and I say there is no mandatory military service. [applause] I want to take the opportunity to say I am sure that radio stations—and this goes for the Radio Corporacion people who might be around—do not support such military service. Those who have aired this rumor only intend to distort the truth. Military service is not mandatory. I want the Nicaraguan people to understand, through all of you, my dear friends, that there is no such service and that all I want is peace in this country. I want those with arms to surrender them and to talk with us, the media, and whomever else they want, so we can have peace. I do not want any more dead. All I want is for us to work and plant our corn and rice, not make war.

[First reporter] During the demonstration in Chontales, the National Opposition Union said you should step down and give Virgilio Godoy a chance. What can you say about this?

[Chamorro, laughing] To begin with, how can I step down after the people elected me?

[Second reporter] What is the latest information on the Ibarra case?

[Chamorro] The Ibarra case is being handled by certain Cochabamba lawyers. We will try to have him extradited. That is my wish, but we do not have an extradition treaty with Bolivia. I think there is one, very old, that we will try to update and use against Ibarra.

[Second reporter] What about Ibarra's alleged U.S. citizenship?

[Chamorro] Those rumors were spread by the media, which said he had a visa to travel to the United States. You people are like that, full of rumors and stories, perhaps echoing what you heard over some radio station.

It has been said that Ibarra, and other Nicaraguans for that matter, are U.S. citizens.

[Third unidentified reporter] What about the Mexican president's visit?

[Chamorro] The president of Mexico and I will arrive together from Venezuela to Nicaragua at approximately 1800 on 12 February. He will leave the next day.

[Third reporter] What about Mexico's aid to Nicaragua?

[Chamorro] All Nicaraguans and I are deeply grateful for Mexico's concern over the Nicaraguan people. Salinas told me he wanted to visit us, although he will not have much time. We will fly back together, in the same plane, his plane. Otherwise, I would have to fly to Miami or through Costa Rica. It is his wish to visit Nicaragua and talk about our needs and concerns. The agenda will be a short and verbal one. He will arrive in the afternoon and fly back to Mexico in the morning. I think he already knows our needs and problems. He is willing to help Nicaragua.

[Third reporter] Will you sign a cooperation agreement?

[Chamorro] We will decide later, but we probably will because, if he comes to pay us a short visit, he will surely sign something.

[Third reporter] Will your government request support for social programs?

[Chamorro] My request will correspond to what is possible for the other country to give.

[Third reporter] Will you attend other summits, such as the ones to be held in Guayaquil and Belize?

[Chamorro] I will probably go to Guayaquil to defend Nicaragua's exports of bananas, the price of which has gone down. Because it is faster, the Ecuadoran president will send a plane to pick us up on 11 (?February). The plane will pick up Honduran President Rafael Callejas and Costa Rican President Rafael Calderon and drop the three of us off in Caracas the same day. [end recording]

UNO Deputies Return to Assembly Meetings

PA0402003693 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 4

[Text] The fact that National Opposition Union [UNO] deputies have attended parliamentary commission meetings has been interpreted by political analysts as a sure sign that the uncertain situation at the National Assembly "is beginning to return to normal" after five months of political confrontation.

The Work, Production, Foreign Affairs, Environment, Economic Affairs, and Central American Integration Commissions have met with at least two UNO deputies in attendance at each one for the last two days on the second floor of the assembly building.

Sandinist deputies and Center Bloc deputies from the UNO feel that this attendance legitimizes the National Assembly Board of Directors elected on 9 January. Nonetheless, coalition leaders deny this is the case and insist on challenging it.

"Attendance does not constitute legalization. We are only making use of an established right we have as elected deputies. In order not to legalize (the Board of Directors) we will not accept positions as chairmen of the commissions," said Roberto Urroz, who was recently appointed deputy coordinator of that wing.

But Roberto Moreno, Central Organization of Trade Union Action and Unity leader and UNO deputy, has announced that he will accept the chairmanship of the Labor Commission, which is scheduled to meet shortly. The Federation of Managua Commune Workers sent a letter to Urroz voicing support for Moreno.

The following participated in the work sessions on behalf of UNO: Azucena Ferrey, Duilio Baltodano, the "independent" Moises Hassan, Edmundo Castillo, Armando Zambrana, Nicolas Bolanos, and Nardo Sequeira, among others.

Based on what the Sandinists call the UNO "short political memory" —in two years it forgot that Alfredo Cesar turned his back on it and aligned with the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the Executive Branch to obtain the Assembly presidency—some Sandinists forecast that there will soon be harmony in the Assembly.

Whether this is true, the commission meetings were held in a calm atmosphere, except for an exchange of words between conservative Edmundo Castillo and Sandinist Reynaldo Tefel when the latter called the former "friend." The chairmen and directors of the commission were all ratified in their posts, as expected.

The committee chairmanships were established as follows:

In Economic Affairs, Dora Maria Tellez; Foreign Affairs, Alejandro Solorzano; Environment, Jose Leon Talavera; Communications and Transportation, William Ramirez; Production, Guillermo Chavarria; and Central American Integration, Alejandro Perez Arevalo.

Still pending ratification are Defense and Government, Justice, Education, Health, Labor Affairs, Agrarian Reform, and Population, among others, five of which are supposed to be taken by UNO deputies.

Sandinists Deny Ties to 'Leftist Punitive Forces'

PA0402003793 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Feb 93 pp 1, 12

[Report by Juan Ramon Huerta "with the cooperation of Juan Carlos Sarmiento, Francisco Jesus Rodriguez, and Martha Marina Gonzalez"]

[Text] The political secretaries of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] in the northern part of the country—Jose Gonzalez, Matagalpa; Isaias Parrales, Esteli; Santiago Fajardo and Aura Cruz Peralta, Ocotal; and Marvin Castro, Jinotega—agreed on 2 February that those who cause instability and desperation among the people should be attacked.

The Sandinist leaders denied that their party has connections with the Leftist Punitive Forces [FPI]. But they said that "to the extent that anarchy and impunity are intensified, the sectors most affected will seek ways to struggle that are not always the most adequate."

Jose Gonzalez and Isaias Parrales said they do not justify the methods used by these groups, adding that in their opinion such organizations owe their existence to anarchy, the lack of order and institutions, and unemployment and poverty.

"There is a phenomenon called institutional violence that is a result of the government's refusal to meet the people's basic human rights demands, which leads to violence," Gonzalez said.

Isaias Parrales said that "any organization whose purpose is to defend life and to protect what the revolution gave the people is good, but there are other ways."

Parrales said he "disagrees with acts that harm people's normal lives" but attributed the emergence of these types of organizations to the country's social problems. He said: "The government is greatly responsible because it failed to take the proper measures."

Miriam Cruz Peralta, municipal political secretary in Ocotal, described the FPI membership as ultraleftists with no ties to the FSLN. She said she believes the organization is another expression of struggle by the Nicaraguan people "in response to the chaotic situation in the country."

"They know why they are doing it. Traditionally the north has been a critical area. Its geography makes it possible for armed groups to advance their strategies," she said.

Santiago Fajardo, departmental political secretary, said that "violent action will not solve our problems. We must fight them at the source. As long as we lack employment stability and the benefits the people need, this will continue."

"It is a method in which each person tries to resolve his problems by means he considers advantageous. Given its methods, the FPI solves nothing. It only generates violence, which fosters more violence," he said.

Marvin Castro, departmental political secretary in Jinotega, said the FPI acts are the result of a state of affairs in which right-wing spokesmen are calling the people to take up arms.

As an example he spoke of a recent meeting between Deputy Humberto Castilla with recontra chief Northiel in San Rafael del Norte, during which the politician encouraged Northiel to continue his armed activities until the Army is toppled.

"The FSLN has reported these actions on various occasions. At the bottom of it is a socioeconomic problem and, with the calls to arms by the rightists and Radio Corporacion, it is not strange for groups like these to emerge," he said.

On 2 February Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta visited Jinotega to console, on the president's behalf, the family of Esau Ubeda, the rancher who was killed by the FPI.

In a strong tone, Mendieta warned that any armed groups that do not gather at the established security zones and that resist dialogue with the government will be fought in a broad operation that Mendieta announced in the presence of local military chiefs.

Mendieta offered protection to the Ubeda family and Jinotega farmers. He said that all armed groups that reject dialogue, including El Chacal [Jose Angel Talavera], whom he hinted had left the security zone, will be fought.

On 2 February the FPI released an official communique claiming responsibility for the latest acts, including Ubeda's death. The clandestine organization circulated the communique on the streets of Jinotega and announced new acts.

The authorities are not dismissing the possibility of strong acts of reprisal for the capture of three FPI members.

At dawn on 2 February an armed group opened fire on the San Lucas police station in Somoto. No victims were reported and the attackers have not been identified.

Government, CST Complete State Enterprise Talks

PA0402031793 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Feb 94 pp 1,5

[Report by Carlos Garcia]

[Text] On 2 February, the Sandinist Workers Federation [CST] and the government finished the complicated round of negotiations related to worker participation in state-owned enterprises after signing an agreement that transfers approximately 30 percent of several state-owned enterprises to the workers.

Dayton Caldera, president of the National Corporations of the Public Sector [CORNAP] said he believes that the agreement, reached in the early morning hours of 2 February, will improve the outlook of democracy that is being forged in Nicaragua by widening the active economic base.

The agreements, which were sealed by Finance Minister Emilio Pereira, Labor Minister Francisco Rosales, Caldera as the CORNAP representative, and the CST leadership, provide workers with total share control over 33 corporations including Delmor, the Nicaraguan Cardboard Enteprise, and the Nicaraguan Plastics Enterprise.

Workers will have significant share control in other important national enterprises such as Solka-Enisueros, Copa, and La Fosforera. These companies are currently being claimed by the Solorzano-Marin and Pedro Ortega Macho families, founders of the 15 September Legion.

As BARRICADA reported on 1 February, workers will now be entitled to 40 percent share control of Solka, 65 percent of Copa, and 50 percent of La Fosforera.

CST National Executive Director Roberto Gonzalez said that the workers "forced" the government to reverse its order of priorities concerning the property reinstatement policies for those state enterprises being claimed by former officials of the Somoza regime.

According to Gonzalez, union pressure prompted the government to give priority to its negotiations with the workers and then return the properties confiscated by the previous government.

With the settling of the negotiations on 2 February, the government will decide how to allocate the rest of the shares and companies under CORNAP. The work of the National Confiscation Revision Commission will be easier because it now has the "green light" to act.

The agreement established a system of payment considered to be "favorable" to workers. According to the agreement, the payments will be based on equitable allotments and be paid to the government in cordobas. The workers, however, accepted that the amount of the debt will fluctuate in accordance with the official currency exchange rate with the U.S. dollar.

The purchasing worker will pay his debt over a 10-year period, at 6 percent interest, and with a two-year grace period at the most.

The workers' payments will come from the following sources: 5 percent to be deducted from their wages, 25 percent from future dividends, and the rest from other resources to be provided by the workers.

The agreement stipulates that, until the loan has been paid in full, the privatized property can only be used in negotiations and transactions with third parties with the government's express consent.

Gonzalez considered the agreements to be a victory for the union movement as it resulted from a "coherent and united" effort.

From the workers perspective, "the new worker-businessman role is a challenge and a great responsibility to the country," Gonzalez stated.

The union leader said the CST will not abandon its position of fighting for jobs and wages, despite the new challenges that have resulted from the alternative economic model.

On 2 February, Caldera reported that 233 of the 351 firms received by CORNAP from the Sandinist Government had been privatized as of 16 December 1992 and that 118 firms still have to be privatized.

According to the report by Caldera, 45 percent of the state firms had been privatized in favor of Nicaraguan businessmen, 25 percent in favor of workers, and 18 percent in favor of former Nicaraguan Resistance and Sandinist Peoples' Army members.

Deputies Form New Political Faction in Assembly

PA0402145693 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Conservative Deputy Hernando Zuniga Montenegro has announced the creation of a new conservative faction in the Assembly made up of 11 deputies who formed an alliance. Zuniga said the new Assembly faction consists of Conservative National Action [ANC], Miriam Arguello's Conservative Popular Alliance, and the National Conservative Party. Zuniga has just joined Arguello's party after leaving the ANC. [passage omitted]

New Group Makes Death Threats in Ocotal

PA0302233493 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 12

[Article by Alfonso Malespin Jiron]

[Text] Ocotal. An organization called New Contra and Victims of Confiscation Committee emerged during the weekend of 30 to 31 January, making death threats against Mayor Arnulfo Aguilera Maradiaga and other well-known Sandinists.

According to the threats, councilmen top a long list of people who could be murdered, as they are considered to be enemies of the organization's cause. This cause was not specified.

Three messages have been received: one by the mayor, one by Deputy Mayor Luis Peralta, and the other by former Mayor Felipe Barreda.

The three messages are similiar. They are obscene, offensive, and forecast a grim death for the addressees.

Relatives of Barreda said they were not surprised by the threats. "The contras always threatened him when he was mayor." In their message, the organization warns that Berreda will suffer the same fate as his parents Mary and Felipe, who were kidnapped, tortured, and murdered in Honduras.

Police and government sources said they have no knowledge of this organization.

"We have no information about this organization," a National Police spokesman from Ocotal said. The spokesman added that no formal charges have been filed by the threatened officials.

Government Ministry Delegate Ramon Paguaga made similar comments. "No charges have been filed, but if they are, we will investigate."

Panama

Further on Kidnapping of Three U.S. Missionaries

Government Requests U.S. Support

PA0302192593 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] A mobilization is under way to rescue three missionaries kidnapped in the Colombian border area. The national government has requested support from the U.S. Government.

Early on 3 February, the Public Security Forces began an air mobilization phase in Darien Province to seek and rescue three U.S. missionaries who were kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas. The group includes Special Rapid Deployment units and a logistics support contingent, which will reinforce the National Police units operating in Darien under Captain Arnulfo Escobar.

Major Cristobal Fundora, field of operations chief, is in charge of the first contingent. National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez will travel on the afternoon of 3 February to Darien Province.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said that it is expected that the U.S. Army South will also participate with support equipment and materiels.

[Begin recording] [Linares] I think that the participation of the U.S. authorities will include supplying us with equipment and perhaps helping us with advice, or something like that. I am not handling this investigation.

[Unidentified reporter] The Colombian ambassador said that....

[Linares, interrupting] What the Foreign Ministry is requesting is equipment, [repeats himself].

[Reporter] What kind of equipment?

[Linares] That equipment could be helicopters....

[Reporter, interrupting] Mr. Foreign Minister....

[Linares, interrupting] We are not, we are not...[pauses] pardon me...[pauses] In my note, I did not specify what type of equipment, because I am not the one to decide what type of equipment is needed. Circumstances will dictate at a given moment what type of equipment is needed. It could be helicopters, it could be a plane, it could be special launches...[pauses] In other words, we are requesting the equipment that the National Police may require. [end recording]

The Colombian ambassador said that there is no information about the kidnappers. He added that his government will support the Panamanian Government in those actions in which it must.

[Begin recording] [Colombian Ambassador Alfonso Araujo Cotes] The Colombian Embassy really does not have any information of who kidnapped those men. It is unknown if they were kidnapped by common criminals, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the Guerrilla Coordinating Board, or anyone else. We have no information to this effect.

[Unidentified reporter] The Panamanian Government and justice minister have stated that it was up to the Colombian Army to investigate this situation, as it was an act of terrorism. Do you know anything about this?

[Araujo Cotes] How can our country investigate something that did not take place in Colombian territory? The action took place in Panamanian territory, and all we can do is lend any support requested by the Panamanian Government. Actions taking place in Panamanian territory must be investigated, however, by the Panamanian Government. [end recording]

So far, the mobilization has been carried out with National Air Service planes, and a command post has been established at El Real, Darien Province. President Endara has appointed Oswaldo Fernandez in charge of this mission.

Police Director Comments on Search

PA0402015693 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The National Police Command set up on 3 February an operations center in El Real, Darien Province, to coordinate the search for the three U.S. missionaries who were presumably kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Victor de la Hoz] National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez flew to El Real this afternoon. He and other top national police officers will coordinate the search operation for the U.S. missionaries who were allegedly kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas. The new group will join the 200 men who are already in Darien as part of the special reaction team. There has been no trace of the missionaries who were in the Pucuru, near Colombia. Fernandez said that the operation will be coordinated with the Colombian Government and will have logistical support from the U.S. Southern Command.

[Fernandez] For security reasons, we will not tell you the number of policemen involved, the amount of weapons being used, or what information we have. You must understand these people are human beings and we do not want to put them in greater danger.

[First unidentified reporter] Has the presence of subversive movements in the area been confirmed?

[Fernandez] It has definitely been confirmed.

[Reporter] Will actions be coordinated with the Colombian Government?

[Fernandez] We are coordinating with the Colombian Government. Foreign Minister Julio Linares contacted the Colombian Government. We have received instructions from the president to establish the appropriate contacts.

[Reporter] How about U.S. soldiers?

[Fernandez] No. The foreign minister requested the necessary logistical support and transportation from the U.S. Government because three U.S. citizens were kidnapped. We are not getting military support.

[Reporter] The Darien area where the missionaries were kidnapped is dangerous. Do the National Police have the weapons and equipment needed to cope with such acts of subversion?

[Fernandez] That is our constitutional and legal duty and we must carry it out.

[Reporter] Will the operations be on land?

[Second unidentified reporter] Are the subversives in the region Panamanians or foreigners?

[Fernandez] They are foreign groups. We have identified them as members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

[De la Hoz] Foreign Minister Linares said the government will do everything necessary to locate the three kidnapped missionaries.

[Linares] I have been in contact with Colombian Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin since 2 February. I wanted to inform her first of what was happening. Second, I requested the cooperation of the Colombian Government on the border area. She said she was willing to help. She said she would contact Defense Minister Rafael Pardo to provide us with the assistance we may need.

[De la Hoz] Alfonso Araugo, Colombian Ambassador to Panama, said his government will provide all the support requested to conduct the search.

[Araujo] The Colombian Government is lending all the assistance the Panamanian Government may need and require. The fundamental thing is we are supporting any action to avoid acts of vandalism and kidnappings, the most serious crimes against humanity. [De la Hoz] Nobody knows why the missionaries were kidnapped in the Darien forest. [end recording]

Guerrillas' 'Problem' With Americans Noted

PA0402151593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 1A

[Article by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Excerpts] Panama has asked the United States for assistance in providing weapons and equipment for the 215 security forces members that are searching in Darien Province for three members of the New Tribes Mission who were kidnapped on 31 January by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). [passage omitted]

Official sources have disclosed that later on in the week of 31 January, four FARC guerrillas returned to the town of Pucuro to tell residents that the guerrillas had no problems with them but with the Americans.

It was also reported that metal casings from rifle bullets were found in the area and that the guerrillas took the missionaries' radio equipment.

Legislative Debate 'Deadlocked' on ARI Bill

PA0302160593 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Political factors might be delaying the discussion on the draft bill creating the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI], which is still deadlocked in the second debate and thereby incurring great expenses for the government.

The Legislative Assembly only has 22 days to end the debate on the draft bill creating the ARI, but it has not even gone beyond discussing Article 2. With President Guillermo Endara's extension of the special sessions, the legislators have become involved in discussing various proposals to modify Article 2. Nonetheless, the political and legalistic nature of the legislature has prevailed over logic and reason. The only ones benefiting from this are the legislators, who will each end up with an additional 3,000 balboas in their salaries.

[Begin recording, Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Balbina Herrera] It is going to be a very long discussion. I would find it difficult—and I want the Panamanian people to know this—for us to culminate the discussion of this draft bill, primarily because the bill itself contains contradictions. We are not referring to form; we are referring to content. On one hand the bill is supposed to be just for the reverted areas, but there are still articles that say it has to be involved in the general plan for the use of soils. On the other hand, they [not further identified] have patched up articles that have removed the sense that they themselves intended to propose. That is obviously the reason why it was rejected in the first debate of the Canal Commission and there was no consensus. [end recording]

The Legislative Assembly is practically forced to discuss in just about 20 days approximately 60 articles of the

ARI bill that would entail approving at least three articles per day. Experience with the Panamanian legislature shows that is impossible.

It is expected, however, that the legislators will decide on what is most advisable for the country, which is in an uproar because while all of this is going on, the Comptroller General's Office has said the public employees' request for a salary increase is impossible.

The legislators might be using these special sessions to prepare their economic platform for the upcoming political campaign, even though in 20 days they might consider better options for the benefit of the country.

PDC Denies Support for ARI Law Approval

PA0302194293 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 2-A

[Report by Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party (PDC) denied on 2 February that its legislators will support the approval of the Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI] law in exchange for one of its members being appointed secretary general of the Electoral Tribunal.

Legislator Raul Ossa, vice president of the PDC, said it is "untrue" that his party is thinking of exchanging its vote on the ARI for a political opportunity.

Ossa stated: "We have decided to act responsibly for the benefit of the entire country," adding that "for this we have not exchanged anything for anything."

Sectors opposed to the government as well as the PDC say the PDC has "yielded to the government" to pass the law.

Legislator Ossa stated: "I categorically deny" that we will support the ARI law. "We have nothing to do with that and we will only defend our 47 modifications."

According to Ossa, "no Christian democrat is interested" in the secretary generalship of the Electoral Tribunal.

Legislative sources have said that the vacancy at the Electoral Tribunal has already been filled by a member of the Authentic Liberal Party (PLA), who until his appointment worked for Presidency Minister Julio Harris, a distinguished member of the PLA.

Argentina

Defense Minister on Sending More Troops Abroad

PY0302191293 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1108 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Feb (TELAM)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez said today that Argentina will reinforce its troops commissioned in the conflict zones of the Persian Gulf and the former Yugoslavia only by an eventual UN request.

"So far we are thinking of maintaining our battalion in Croatia," the minister said. As for the Persian Gulf, he said that "only if the UN Security Council orders reinforcements for the Blue Helmets in the Iraq-Kuwait area, will we have to consider whether the mission continues being carried out within the framework of maintaining peace."

In statements from Germany to Radio Mitre in Buenos Aires, Erman Gonzalez added that "our mission is to maintain peace, not to make peace, because this somehow implies a predisposition to fight with one of the enemies. We are speaking of observers to maintain peace, which means total neutrality of action."

Gonzalez said the soldiers who were taken hostage in the former Yugoslavia are in good health and "did not suffer any physical harm."

He stressed that they were freed by pressure from the United Nations, which interceded not only for the two Argentine soldiers, but also for 19 other members of the UN security forces that are commissioned there.

The minister downplayed a possible worsening of the conflict in the Persian Gulf area by saying that "we are observing a different attitude in Saddam, who may be willing to respect the UN resolutions and the exclusion zone."

Erman Gonzalez rejected some media reports that said Argentina had signed agreements with Germany for cooperation in war training courses.

He said that "it is just a rapprochement, a bilateral cooperation between the two countries' defense ministries, which includes normal advanced war courses in which Argentine officials already had participated on other occasions."

Nahuel Satellite System Plan Viewed

PY0302190793 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1928 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Feb (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo has sitting on his desk, waiting for approval, the "critical plan" of the Argentine Nahuel-1 and -2 satellite system which could become effective within five days of the document being signed.

This was announced by Jose Sanchez Elia, deputy trustee of the National Telecommunications Committee (CNT).

Manfred Croissant, assistant director of Deutsche Aerospace in Argentina, said that a meeting will be held next week in Munich to analyze the plan and its contract norms.

"We have a draft contract ready to facilitate the approval and document-signing process for the consortium that will win the bid. The contract incorporates all the alternatives expressed in the bid conditions."

Croissant told TELAM that between 8 and 11 February the members of the European consortium and the winning operator, that is, the Brazilian Telecommunications Company (Embratel) will meet in Munich.

He added that "during the week of 15 February we will know how the satellite system operating society will be formed," although he anticipated that the Temporary Union of Companies [Union Transitoria de Empresas] (UTE) "will hold much more than the 25 percent share required by the bid conditions."

UTE is made up of Embratel, Aerospatiale Societe Nationale Industrielle, Alcatel Space Inc., Alenia Spacioc, Deutsche Aerospace (Dornier and Messerschmitt-Bolokow-Blohm).

Croissant said that Paracom (a consortium of Argentine firms) and Telesat of Canada "will own" the temporary telecommunications system and, in its exploitation, Paracom will own 90 percent while Telesat will hold the remaining 10 percent.

The Paracom group, which is made up of LA NACION newspaper, Loma Negra Cement Industry, and several cable television and insurance companies in the interior of Argentine could end up with 10 percent of the definite society, but this proportion is not yet defined because the bid conditions allow the incorporation of new share holders.

"We are interested in the telecommunications business," said the representative of the German group in the UTE. "We did not come forward just to sell our part, we really want to be here, complying with the plan to invest more than $200 million."

He said progress is being made in the negotiations to "relocate" the two satellites that will operate for two and a half years until the Nahuel-1 satellite is launched.

He explained that "the beam of this system covers more than half the geographical territory where 90 percent of the population resides," and it will operate on the so called "KU band," possibly as of next April.

According to Croissant, "we know there is a great demand for these services which could be greater than the capacity of the two planned satellites so we will have to seek ways to bring in a third temporary satellite before the end of the year."

Bolivia

Former Nicaraguan Official Makes Accusations

PY0302212793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1659 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] La Paz, 3 Feb (EFE)—Speaking at a clinic in the Bolivian city of Cochabamba where he is being held, Antonio Ibarra, the former Nicaraguan vice minister of the presidency, broke his pact of silence and today accused Violeta Chamorro's administration, the Army, and the Navy of being involved in drug trafficking.

Despite the efforts of his lawyer, Carlos Sanchez Berzain, and steps taken by the U.S. Consulate to release him, Ibarra has been under arrest in the clinic since 29 January, awaiting a court ruling.

Cochabamba District Superior Court has set for this afternoon the "habeas corpus" audience that was suspended on 1 February due to the lack of a prosecutor and on 2 February due to the judges' absence. Cochabamba is in the middle of Bolivia and 403 km east of La Paz.

Ibarra decided to break his pact of silence and accused Chamorro's administration of being involved in drug trafficking and Minister of the Presidency Antonio Lacayo of being the main person responsible for the cases of corruption within the government.

Ibarra thus refuted his previous remarks that he "will never accuse an honest man like Minister Lacayo."

However, in statements made to the newspapers LA RAZON from La Paz and LOS TIEMPOS from Cochabamba, he said Lacayo held money obtained from drug trafficking in a safe and Mrs. Chamorro's son-in-law was the only person who knew the code.

Ibarra said: "The Army and Navy carried out drug-trafficking activities on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. The drug traffickers had their operations base on the Colombian island of San Andres."

He added: "The business involved huge amounts of money bartered for sea food that was then exported, and Lacayo received approximately $300,000 per week from the operation."

Lacayo also received funds from other sources, like the dollars stemming from the Social Care Fund for the Downtrodden (FASO) that were delivered by Ibarra himself.

Lacayo is linked to a company that illegally obtained a $50 million credit from the Inter-American Development Bank for the purchase of electrical generators in Matagalpa and Tipitaba.

Ibarra also admitted that the charges made by dismissed Comptroller Guillermo Potoy on bribery involving deputies were true.

Ibarra defended himself by saying: "I never said they were not bribed, but that I was not involved in the bribery." He pointed out that he acted as a mediator to guarantee the support of these congressmen in the National Assembly.

He said: "We are talking about thousands of dollars for each deputy because Lacayo paid for each vote."

Meanwhile, an appeal for annulment filed by Ibarra's lawyers against Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean would disqualify MacLean from continuing with the extradition steps that will be sent to the Supreme Court of Justice.

The appeal for annulment states that MacLean is not qualified to order even a preventive arrest, and that the Bustamante Code cannot be applied to take steps for Ibarra's extradition.

The international private law known as the Bustamante Code was signed in Havana in 1928, and ratified by Nicaragua in 1930 and Bolivia in 1938. However, in order to enforce this law in the Ibarra case, Bolivia and Nicaragua must reach a bilateral treaty or must have joined a multilateral one.

The U.S. Consulate in La Paz has asked Bolivian authorities that Ibarra be treated with consideration and his human rights be respected.

Brazil

Franco Not To Participate in Plebiscite Debate

PY0402005893 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] In an interview granted to a radio station here in Porto Alegre, Civilian Household Chief Henrique Hargreaves today emphasized that the president will not participate in the debate prior to the plebiscite on the system of government, when Brazilians will decide whether they prefer a parliamentary or a presidential system of government.

Hargreaves, however, confirmed that President Franco will veto the voters' card model described in the bill. The model then will be established by the Superior Electoral Tribunal.

Hargreaves said the government has not yet made replacements in third-level posts in the federal administration because it was first necessary to restructure the sector, which—according to him—seemed to have been ravaged by a hurricane.

The civilian household chief refused to mention any names, emphasizing that the government still is studying the appointments.

Asked whether political decisions were jointly adopted within the government, Hargreaves used soccer jargon to

say that President Itamar Franco is the one who coordinates political matters. He is a center, but the main forwards are Senator Pedro Simon and Deputy Roberto Freire, respectively, government leaders in the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

Concerning the dissenting opinions ministry officials may have, Hargreaves said President Franco thinks internal dissent is necessary, but uniform language should be used once a decision is made.

Cancels Regulations Benefiting Portuguese

PY0402005093 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] The government has canceled the regulations that facilitated the entry into Brazil of Portuguese who want to work and live in Brazil.

President Itamar Franco this afternoon signed a decree canceling the two articles of the foreigners' law that benefited the Portuguese. As of now, Portuguese citizens willing to work and live in Brazil will need authorization from the Brazilian Consulate in Portugal.

This announcement was made late in the afternoon by Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

[Begin Cardoso recording] Portuguese Prime Minister Cavaco Silva has said that the law must be respected—and I agree with him—and that we have to enforce the law. [end recording]

The minister made a point that this is not retaliation, and that the decree that was signed today will not affect the Portuguese who are living in Brazil.

Cardoso recalled Brazilian Ambassador to Portugal (Jose Aparecido de Oliveira) to Brasilia to study measures that may be adopted to preserve the integrity of Brazilians who disembark in Portugal without regular documents.

Finance Minister Reportedly Offered Resignation

PY0302225393 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Feb 93 Economy Business Section p 2

[From the "Direct From the Source" Column by Sonia Racy]

[Text] Few people knew it and not even enemies disclosed it, probably because they feared an obvious reaction in the financial market. On 29 January, Finance Minister Paulo Haddad submitted his resignation for the third time. Annoyed, President Itamar refused it, and on 30 January he stepped back and accepted the high interest rate policy supported by Haddad.

Haddad must know that the problems have not ended. There are those who want to knock him down with the February inflation rate.

Farias Indicted in Investigation of Collor

PY0302012593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Feb 93 p 7

[Excerpt] Maceio—After making his longest testimony to Federal Police, Paulo Cesar Farias was indicted on 10 of the 14 judicial inquiries made to investigate the trafficking of influence in the Collor government. He is accused of being an accomplice in crimes of active and passive corruption, extortion, forgery of bills, tax evasion, lying in official documents, and exploitation of prestige.

His two lawyers, Nabor Bulhoes and Antonio Mariz, who were present during the testimony, said they will try to stop the judicial inquiry through a habeas corpus petition by alleging that their client cannot be indicted as an accomplice in the aforementioned crimes because the police never indicated who the other accomplices are. [passage omitted]

Federal Police Agents Arrest Mafia Member

PY0402141893 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] In Rio de Janeiro Federal Police agents have arrested Mafia member Franco Tiberio, who was tried and sentenced by a Venice Court on charges of drug trafficking and involvement with the Cosa Nostra. Tiberio has been living in Brazil since 1991 on a tourist visa. An Italian Interpol report on his whereabouts made his identification possible, and he was arrested without offering any resistance.

Inspector Edson de Oliveira, Federal Police regional superintendent, has said that several Mafia members have come to Brazil where they live a normal life.

Chile

Aylwin Orders Settlement of Border Disputes

PY0302204493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1644 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Santiago, 3 Feb (EFE)—It was reported today that Chilean President Patricio Aylwin has instructed the Chilean Foreign Ministry to settle all existing border disputes before the end of his term in December.

The announcement was made by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma upon returning from a visit to France, where he signed a treaty banning biological and chemical warfare agents.

Silva Cimma said the decision by Aylwin "means eliminating the issues that are hindering good relations, thus clarifying the situation between Southern Cone countries," especially in connection with "socioeconomic, cultural, and technology transfer areas."

The Chilean foreign minister installed a negotiating commission that will study the pending clauses of the

treaty signed with Peru in 1929, its additional protocol, and matters related to management of the port facilities Peru will receive in Arica.

According to the treaty, Bolivia should be consulted about any negotiations between Chile and Peru.

The working group will be made up of, on the Chilean side, Chilean Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas and Border Department Director Luis Winter.

The Peruvian delegates will be Peruvian Ambassador to Chile Alfonso Rivero and Peruvian Foreign Ministry legal adviser Fernando Vidal.

Silva Cimma said that "there are no problems" between Chile and Bolivia, adding that more points of contact should be sought in order to improve and promote current ties.

As for the border conflict with Argentina in the Southern Ice Zone or Patagonia Ice region, Silva Cimma said the Foreign Ministry "will work until the last day of the term" of Aylwin "to settle this problem within the framework of international law."

The minister said the negotiating commission will work not only to settle the pending points, but also will address implementation of new activities to be performed jointly with Peru.

Silva Cimma said the pending matters with Peru are related to the management of port, custom, and railway facilities in Arica, 2,051 km north of Santiago.

The creation of the negotiating commission was agreed upon during Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente's latest visit to Chile, early in January.

The two countries decided to resume the talks that were suspended after Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori perpetrated the "self-coup" on 5 April 1992 and dissolved Congress.

Vargas said that during the talks, the commission will make no public reference to each country's position in order to avoid harming the process.

He also called upon the commission members to handle the matter "tactfully and confidentially, so that the proposals do not become the target of domestic debate."

Silva Cimma said he fully agrees with Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, who said the "cold war" between Chile and Bolivia "has ended."

"The clearest proof of this is that Chile has made the consultations so that the meeting of foreign ministers, which is scheduled for April, can be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra and not in Santiago," Silva Cimma said.

Interview With Businessman Cardoen

PY0402120093 Santiago LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 1-14 Feb 93 p 6-9

[Report on interview with Chilean businessman Carlos Cardoen, president and owner of Cardoen Company, by Juanita Rojas; place and date not given]

[Text] It would be difficult for anyone listening to him to remain indifferent. Carlos Cardoen Cornejo has a public image that associates him with arms production, international problems, and even the death of British reporter Jonathan Moyle. Yet he says he is at ease over that accusation. He said: "I never met Moyle. He never asked to meet me. We were exhibiting at the FIDAE [International Aerospace Fair]. If he wanted to know anything about our helicopter, the scale model was there for him to see. The sensationalist press has tried to link me with Moyle's death, but I am quite at ease on that issue."

The conflict with the U.S. Government is different. An undeclared war ensued in 1991 between the Chilean businessman and the United States when that government embargoed the prototype of his modified Bell 206L-III helicopter. Carlos Cardoen sued the U.S. government over the embargo of his helicopter. The Bush Administration reacted by starting an investigation against him in an effort to prove his illegal activities against the United States. It used the international press to link him with the sale of arms to Iraq during the Persian Gulf war. This issue is now sub judice although there have been direct talks between the sides involved, concretely with the prosecutor who is handling the case against Cardoen in the State of Florida.

[Rojas] Were the meetings not favorable for you?

[Cardoen] We made it clear that we did not purchase, take, or obtain any information from them. On the contrary, we patented our technology in the United States. We have the legal registration to prove it. This disqualifies a great part of the U.S. Government case against our activities. The U.S. Government does not understand that a country like Chile can produce high-level technology without the aid of a developed country like the United States. This has been definitely proven, even to the specialists on this issue that were brought in by the U.S. Government.

[Rojas] In spite of the U.S. Government's accusations against you?

[Cardoen] In spite of them. There is a legal report indicating that the U.S. Government intended to file charges against me. I am not aware of the size of the report or the basis on which charges will be filed, but I believe they may be based on an alleged illegal exportation of zirconium. We purchased this metal directly from one of the most important U.S. companies. The importation was made with all the appropriate documents. They now say that in one of the declarations that we completed, on how the product would be used, we stated

that it was for the manufacture of explosives but we did not indicate the explosives were for military use.

[Rojas] And is that true?

[Cardoen] It is an omission, but for them it is a crime. We do not consider it so because we have always been producers of explosives for both civilian and military purposes, and I do not think we are obliged give a foreign government information about all our activities. We purchased the product directly, we imported it and paid for it. We acted according to the law and we think we are right. For the first time the U.S. Government is making some kind of accusation because so far all it has done is engage in trade terrorism. That is, instead of directly raising charges against us, they have spread rumors and accusations based on investigations that so far have not been proven. If there is a trial, I will defend myself resorting to all the legal mechanisms. I repeat, so far they have used trade terrorism and piracy. They have even prohibited companies like Lee from selling me a license to manufacture their jeans in Chile.

[Rojas] What type of legal action could the United States take?

[Cardoen] We don't know. It might range from a lawsuit to a request for extradition, I don't know. Anything can be expected from them, considering the vehemence and violence with which they operate. To request extradition they will have to file a lawsuit and obtain Chilean court approval. That is why we are prepared, because the decision will depend on the Chilean courts, and I have confidence in my country's courts.

[Rojas] They insist that you cooperated with the Iraqi Government, which is illegal...

[Cardoen] The U.S. Government—specifically Bush Administration officials—is trying to make me the scapegoat in light of Saddam Husayn's ability to supply himself with arms. The Americans, U.S. industry, the U.S. Government—like me—supplied Saddam with arms while Iraq was fighting Iran, because this part of the world believed that his was the side to support. If Saddam used the arms the way he did, it is not my responsibility. You should recall that Iraq held seven of my engineers as hostages, which was a very unfriendly action.

[Rojas] When Iraq adopted this new position, did you continue to do business with them?

[Cardoen] No, the deals ended when Iraq invaded Kuwait. The Chilean Government adopted a very clear position, forbidding any further deals with Saddam Husayn. We obeyed this decision.

[Rojas] In that case, why has the U.S. Government shown such hostility against you? It is hard to believe that the only reason is that your enterprise developed sophisticated technology.

[Cardoen] No, no, no. I believe the most important reason is that the U.S. Government detected a loss or weakening of its political influence because some Third World countries gained the ability to produce their own weapons. Bush began a very successful campaign in Brazil, where he closed the Third World's largest tank factory which had won a bid for supplying tanks to the Saudis, even beating the U.S. M-1 tank. The United States intervened in Saudi Arabia to prevent implementation of the contract, even though it was already signed. The Brazilian enterprise went broke thanks to the cooperation of President Collor's corrupt government. In Brazil they also managed to close Avibras [Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc.], a major rocket manufacturer. They also canceled a military project of EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company], which is Latin America's largest plane manufacturer. [Argentine] President Menem gave Bush the Condor project—which was being developed with the Germans—as a present. Who is left? This Colchagua peasant who has his own ideas and who is willing to defend himself.

[Rojas] Has the dispute gotten blown out of proportion a bit?

[Cardoen] Some people do not understand that the United States is not fighting Carlos Cardoen. This fight is against every country in which there are entrepreneurs who want to compete over sophisticated technology products, challenging their political influence and their commercial activities. In my case, a wicked bureaucrat of the Bush administration simply decided that it was necessary to use the dirtiest means, using all types of blackmail and commercial terrorism to discredit and destroy me.

[Rojas] Carlos Cardoen's public image is that of a man who manufactures weapons and who is involved with the law. This obviously contributes to the campaign launched by the United States to discredit you. People do not like weapons...

[Cardoen] We no longer produce weapons. We have not manufactured weapons for a long time. We have almost finished building a shopping center on the site of our armored vehicle plant in Iquique; the weapons factory in Santiago now produces components, spare parts, and industrial machinery; and in the electronic field we have changed our industry completely and are now engaged in exclusively civilian activities. We believe the government can use the other weapons industry facilities which are currently idle but which can resume production. This could be handled by companies that produce weapons, such as the FAMAE [Army Ordnance]. We believe we should not loose our capacity to produce weapons. If every country earmarks a large portion of its budget for defense purposes, it is much better for these elements to be produced locally in order to use labor, technology, know-how, and the country's resources instead of giving it all to the United States. I would not hesitate to resume weapons production should my country need them.

[Rojas] Conventional weapons are no longer any use for self defense. How do you intend to tackle this war declared by the U.S. Government?

[Cardoen] My only weapon is to identify for the people and authorities the dirty tricks used by these U.S. agencies and organizations to try to prevent Third World countries from developing products that would affect them politically and commercially. The poisoned grapes case is exactly the same form of trade terrorism. Another is the case of medicines, demanding that we pay high patents. Worse still, they have now decided that we cannot engage in research in the genetics field because it belongs exclusively to them. This cannot be. The new world order cannot be dictatorial. They are the new Nazis, emerging first at a commercial level and then at a political level. They have even gone to the Chilean Embassy in Washington to complain about the business I do in Cuba. What does this mean? That we are a colony? That we are the toadies of this new order?

[Rojas] Obviously your presence as a businessman in Cuba bothers the U.S. Government and you were aware of that. Why did you decide to invest in Cuba? Why open a new front if you do not share the Cuban Government's ideology?

[Cardoen] We Chileans have a stable democratic government, an internal order, and a very positive determination to generate resources. We must take advantage of this. We must be pragmatic and take care of Chilean interests. I visited Cuba for family reasons and had a chance to meet Cuban authorities who, when they learned that I am a fruit grower, asked me if I would like to visit their plantations, specifically citrus fruit. They produced for Socialist countries at standards valid for those countries but not for the EEC. They asked me: What can we do? I went back to Cuba with Chilean experts and all the products accepted by the EEC and we brought Cuban produce up to the European standards. We have had two successful harvests in which we have made profits and have generated resources for Cuba. I am pleased to see businessmen like Manuel Feliu [Not further identified], Jose Luis Ibanez from Ladeco [Chilean Airlines], Cristian Moran from the shoe industry, and many others are following my lead in searching for opportunities wherever they may be and not where the United States dictates. The United States has a political problem with Cuba. It is their problem and not ours. I think that we should not accept U.S. intervention in this subject nor in any other because if we do so now, in the future we will have them sitting at our desks telling us what to do.

[Rojas] Did you have any difficulty with Cuban authorities over your project?

[Cardoen] I think that if businessmen do not try to be politicians and if politicians do not try to be businessmen, things come out well. Cuban politicians tried to be businessmen and things did not work out for them. We are businessmen and we helped them solve their problems. I think that as long as we do not mix things, we can achieve our goals. The results are there, they are positive and real. I feel a great admiration for some accomplishments of the Cuban revolution in the field of education and medicine. However, in the productive field, in the wealth-generating process, they made every mistake in the book. We demonstrated that with pragmatism it is possible to solve their current industrial problems without mixing them with politics. We are also helping ourselves too because we are not a welfare institution, we are there to make profit. But when we see that the Torricelli Law is being used to starve the people, we will make every possible effort to help them without being politically involved. For purely humanitarian reasons, out of pure solidarity. If I have my government's authorization and support, I feel I have every right in the world to do what I am doing in Cuba.

[Rojas] You said that businessmen should not meddle in politics. Do you consider it possible to participate in politics?

[Cardoen] If I wanted to participate in politics, without doubt I would direct all my efforts to that field. Right now I am involved in many issues connected with cultural development. I want to dedicate this time of my life to that and to do it right because culture contributes to our wellbeing as much as politics and business. They are equally valuable. I think we must strengthen our position as Chileans, consolidate our identity. That is why I am developing new physical spaces where culture is an entertainment, competing with all the attractive audiovisual media available to our children through television, so that they may identify with the earth to which they belong.

Colombia

Gaviria Requests Solidarity for Terrorism Victims

PA0302202393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] On 2 February President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo called for and demanded greater international solidarity in the face of the inhuman actions by narcoterrorists. He made those remarks in his New Year's salute to the diplomatic corps at Narino Palace. David Gutierrez was there.

[Begin recording] [Gutierrez] Speaking before hundreds of ambassadors from all over the world, President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo asked for aid for the victims of terrorism in Santa Fe de Bogota and Medellin. The damage caused during the January attacks in those cities totaled 5 billion pesos.

[Gaviria] If your countries want to help Colombia, they must focus their main efforts on the innocent victims.

[Gutierrez] The president did not stop there. He asked for greater commitment to control the consumption of

drugs, control money laundering, and increase actions to intercept illegal weapons and explosives.

[Gaviria] That is why we hope the other countries where this international criminal network operates will also fulfill their moral duty of cornering that enemy of democracy and mankind.

[Gutierrez] Apostolic Nuncio Monsignor Paolo Romeo recognized Colombia's efforts to live in peace and hinted that the rest of the countries can do a little more to help this nation.

[Romeo] We share the pain of so many families that have lost a loved one and of state institutions and private citizens, the victims of so many attacks.

[Gutierrez] Since every day brings a new approach, the president used tough language against narcoterrorists. He was diplomatic in asking the international community for its solidarity. [end recording]

Inquiry Begins on Agriculture Minister's Actions

PA0302211193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] On 2 February The Attorney General's Office began a disciplinary inquiry and presented a list of charges against Agriculture Minister Alfonso Lopez Caballero. The Attorney General's Office stated that Lopez violated the conflict of interest code during land purchase proceedings in Casanare Department. Here is what correspondent Diego Hernan Canal said:

[Begin Canal recording] The Arizona Farm is the reason for the investigation. According to the Attorney General's Office, Lopez Caballero was involved in a conflict of interest because he waited a few days after he had taken office as agriculture minister to suspend the request to register land in Casanare. In its file, the Attorney General's Office noted that the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform [Incora] received a request to have the process suspended on 28 November 1991, but Lopez Caballero was named minister 20 days earlier. For three months following that time, Incora continued the administrative procedures related to the Arizona Farm and the process to register it in the name of the Lopez Caballero family. The Attorney General's Office does not understand why Juan Manuel Lopez, the minister's brother, ordered and paid for the plans attached to the Incora petition when he knew a request had been file to suspend the registration.

Not everything is bad news for the minister. On 2 February he won a protection suit he filed against the Caracol Network, which must now correct all the information regarding his case. [end recording]

Nule Appointed Acting Agriculture Minister

PA0302202793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria has finally appointed Mines and Energy Minister Guido Nule Amin acting agriculture minister. Nule, however, played down the importance of his new appointment.

[Begin recording] [Nule] This appointment in normal. I do not think it is anything particular or special.

[Unidentified reporter] Have you consulted former Agriculture Minister Lopez on what you will have to do next, particularly considering that you will have to preside over the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform board of directors?

[Nule] No, not at all. I have not talked with Lopez about anything related to this appointment. [end recording]

Paraguay

Government Invites Laino To Hold Dialogue

PY0302194793 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 7

[Text] From what is deduced from the letter sent yesterday afternoon by the Presidential General Secretariat to [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] presidential candidate Domingo Laino, the executive branch finally decided yesterday to hold a dialogue with the PLRA leader. The letter, signed by [Presidential General Secretary] Miguel A. Gonzalez Casabianca, is in response to the one sent by opposition presidential hopefuls on 28 January in which they requested a meeting to discuss several general issues. In the letter, Gonzalez Casabianca states that through its specific offices the government is open to listening to any suggestions or concerns that will improve the democratic transition process our country is experiencing.

As a justification for insisting on the need to conduct the dialogue through the Interior Ministry, the letter states that the government believes the national Constitution and the institutional order are fully in force, without dismissing the possibility of discussing those problems that arise within the framework of a fluent dialogue with all interested parties. In one of its paragraphs the letter adds: "Consequently, I reassert the convenience of starting this dialogue with the Interior Ministry to establish an agenda that can be discussed in a future meeting with the president." Asked about the subject, Laino said he believes this is a first victory and that it constitutes a first step toward the holding of a dialogue that had previously been rejected. It must be added that the government again addressed the letter only to the PLRA leader.

MID-26 Movement Requests Official Recognition

PY0302195293 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 5

[Excerpt] The "26 May" [Democratic Independent Movement 26 May, MID-26], which is backing Ricardo Canese's presidential candidacy, yesterday requested its official registration with the Electoral Court offices in Asuncion. MID-26 officials requested the movement's registration and authorization for the movement to operate. They also urged Electoral Court officer Gladys Lahaye to expedite the proceedings in view of the election's nearness. [passage omitted]

Supreme Court Judges Pressured To Resign

PY0302194493 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 9

[Text] Recently there have been persistent rumors that different national groups allegedly are pressuring Supreme Court members, except Justice Carlos Kohn Benitez, to resign. The reasons for these pressures have not been explained but several possibilities have been mentioned. PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] leader Domingo Laino has said the PLRA will not allow an interruption of the democratic transition process under any circumstances.

Yesterday there were again persistent rumors that the Supreme Court members are being pressured to tender their resignations. Several sources have certified that these rumors are true but that they are very hard to prove. In statements to the press, however, Supreme Court members denied the existence of any pressures.

The apparent objective is to have a more docile Supreme Court in case it has to pass a ruling on the Colorado Party crisis. Moreover, government sectors are concerned about the possibility that Chief Justice Alberto Correa may succeed the president if there is an interruption in the democratic transition process, because he is in the presidential line of succession.

Those sectors pressuring for the resignation of Supreme Court members reportedly have proposed that Correa and [Justice Minister] Oscar Paciello switch posts, thus allowing the latter, a man of absolute trust, to have access to the chief justice's chair. Furthermore, through indirect channels [Supreme Court Judges] Francisco Pusineri Oddone, Albino Garcete Lambiase, and Jeronimo Irala Burgos also have been asked to resign.

It has been learned that Pusinerio Oddone, Garcete Lambiasse, and Irala Burgos have held a meeting with Correa and they have decided they will firmly defend their positions and not resign. Kohn Benitez, the fifth Supreme Court member, was not invited to participate in the meeting.

Correa has five months to go to reach the retirement age limit in the judicial branch, and he intends to ends his career as a Supreme Court judge.

'Senior Official' Blamed For Pressure

PY0402143293 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 0900 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Recorded portions are enclosed in quotation marks]

[Text] Supreme Court Justice Jeronimo Irala Burgos has confirmed that pressure has been exerted on some justices by individuals who acted in the name of President Andres Rodriguez. In remarks to Radio Cardinal, Justice Irala made it clear that pressure has been exerted, although not officially or institutionally. He noted that among those who exerted pressure is a senior official at Government Palace.

"Although nothing has been done officially or institutionally, pressure was applied through individuals who claimed to represent the president of the Republic. One of these individuals is a senior official at Government Palace. Thus, one cannot have doubts about the source of this pressure.

"Three Supreme Court justices have been asked to resign. They are: Chief Justice Jose Alberto Correa, Justice Albino Garcete Lambiase, and Justice Francisco Pusineri Oddone."

Justice Irala noted that this action may provoke a serious crisis within our state of law because three Supreme Court justices are being unduly pressured to resign. He said:

"All this is completely irregular because, as is known, Supreme Court justices may be removed only through an impeachment process which must be initiated by the Chamber of Deputies with a two-thirds majority vote and which must be confirmed by the Senate, also through a two-thirds majority. This is the only legal way, the only procedure established in our Constitution, to remove a justice from office. Thus, we believe that the way the request was made and the source of the request—about which one cannot have any doubt because one of those involved is a senior Government Palace official—leads us to assume that we are facing a serious crisis in the state of law because three justices are being unduly pressured to resign.

"I hope none of the justices will resign. My hope is shared by all the judges of the Republic."

Irala stated that he will immediately resign if a way is found to force any of the justices to resign. He noted that such action would be a true coup d'etat and added that the Association of Magistrates has objected to these pressures and has given its support to the Supreme Court justices. He said:

"The Association of Magistrates, through its executive board, has conveyed to the chief justice and to the other justices that it fully objects to this procedure and that it supports the three justices. I believe this is the appropriate course of action. Although no one has suggested or has asked me to resign, I too have stated that, should any

of the three justices be forced to resign through entirely illegal procedures, I will immediately tender my resignation. I will do so because if we are building together—although painfully sometimes—a state of law, it is unacceptable for anyone to cause such a major disruption of the democratization process—precisely on the fourth anniversary of the initiation of this stage—by carrying out a true coup d'etat and destroying one of the objectives of the proclamation of the 3 February 1989 revolution."

Irala added that there is no cause for starting an impeachment process against the Supreme Court justices. He said that if this happens, steps will be taken to defend the justices to prove that any allegation of wrongdoing is unfounded. He said:

"I trust that any of the affected justices will not resign. I fully believe there is absolutely no cause for starting an impeachment proceeding. Yet, if they want to do it, we are prepared to accept it and to publicly defend the members of the Supreme Court at Congress, and prove that there is absolutely no cause for such a process. Personally, I am deeply hurt over the mistreatment of these people. Chief Justice Correa has served more than 30 years on the bench and is beyond reproach and of unquestionable honesty. I also hold Justices Garcete and Pusineri in high esteem. In sum, I trust that the requested resignations will not occur. We are prepared to undergo any impeachment proceeding. If pressure increases and resignations occur, I will be the fourth justice to resign."

Colorado Faction Reveals Rodriguez' Fortune

PY0302172093 Asuncion TIEMPO 14 in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 8

[Unattributed article entitled "Rodriguez Has $1.4 Billion Fortune"]

[Text] On 1 January the self-styled "International Committee in Support of Luis Maria Argana" sent a "memorandum" to all the international news agencies in Paraguay. It describes the developments of the Colorado Party internal elections since last 27 December, claiming the victory of Argana over Wasmosy. This committee claims that Argana's triumph was muffled on the orders of President Andres Rodriguez. "Rodriguez' overwhelming ambition to remain in power is explained by an article published on 30 December 1992 in the DIARIO LATINO publication of El Salvador, the contents of which are a shameful insult to the needy of Paraguay." The document was accompanied by the mentioned article, which we hereby reproduce:

I. Rodriguez publicly controls the following companies:

a) The Guarani Exchange House, where besides exchanging foreign currency, money is laundered. President Stroessner was overthrown a few days after he ordered the closure of this exchange house.

b) The Cerveceria Asuncion Brewery. Partners: General Lino Oviedo and Blas N. Riquelme [Colorado Party president]

c) Impaco Inc. Cable, where Rodriguez appears as president. This company smuggles electricity cables from abroad.

d) Arenera San Jorge, Inc. Partners: General Adolfo Samaniego and Cecilio Fleitas.

e) Cereales Inc. Wheat mill. Partner: Blas N. Riquelme

f) The following construction companies:

Concrete Mix, Inc. Partners: Jose Bogarin and Engineer Raul Cubas

Conc.mpa Limited [Consortium of Paraguayan Construction Companies] and CIE [Electromechanical Engineering Consortium], contractors of the Itaipu and Yacyreta hydroelectric dams. Partners: Conrado Pappalardo, Engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy, and Architect Hugo Aranda. These companies have won building contracts in the mentioned hydroelectric dams worth $6 billion.

g) San Antonio Inc. Cold storage. Partners: The Antebi family.

h) America Textil Inc. This company has supplied uniforms for the Paraguayan Army, Navy, Air Force, and Police in the past 15 years. Partners: The Antebi family.

i) Media: ABC COLOR and ULTIMA HORA. Partners: Aldo Zucolillo and Demetrio Rojas, respectively.

j) Importation of Jaguar cars through Gustavo Saba [Rodriguez' son-in-law]; Automotor Inc. Partner: Jose Bogarin

k) Many properties in Punta del Este.

II. Rodriguez controls the following illegal businesses:

a) Smuggling of whisky, cigarettes, and electronic goods. Partners: Gustavo Saba and Alcides Riveros

b) Clandestine landing strips for sending smuggled goods abroad. Partners: Carlos Barreto, Juan Angel Napout, Gustavo Saba, Alcides Riveros, and "Nenin" Viveros Cartes.

III. Businesses Rodriguez acquired after the coup:

a) Antonio Sacarello [Rodriguez' son-in-law] supplies all the Armed Forces purchases by direct adjudication without calling to public bids.

b) Purchase of fuel and its transportation through Petropar [Paraguayan Petroleum Inc]. This business is controlled by his two sons-in-law (Saba and Sacarello) with the cooperation of Javier Zucolillo, Desiderio Enciso (Petropar president), and Demetrio Rojas (ULTIMA HORA director).

c) Rodriguez controls the three casinos in Asuncion, three bingo halls, the lottery, and the soccer pools with the following partners: Dora Dominguez, Anibal Salomon, Julio Duarte, Cesar Prieto, Carlos Barreto, and Reinaldo Dominguez.

d) Through the banks Bancopar Inc. and General Inc. which belong to Rodriguez, Sacarello and the former Industry Minister Antonio Zucolillo bought, through the US company Merrill Lynch of New York, Brazilian foreign debt notes at 19 percent of their value and resold

them to the Paraguayan Central Bank at 40 percent of their value. They earned $40 million through this operation.
e) The CVC Cable Television Company, which Rodriguez owns with his sons-in-law.
f) La Riojana general store. Partner: Gustavo Saba. They took control of this store alleging that its former owner, Lazaro Morga, did not pay taxes.
g) Rodriguez' son-in-law Antonio Sacarello controlled the love motels VIP, Executivo, Status, Regius, and Los Pinos. The business is currently shared with Dolly Rodriguez de Sacarello [Rodriguez' daughter]. The visible partners in this business are: Miguel Kemper, Carola Zanotti, Architect Amado Franco, and before being imprisoned for disagreeing with Rodriguez, Architect Emilio Napout.
h) The biggest business carried out by Rodriguez was the smuggling of weapons to South Africa and Iraq with Antonio Zucolillo. Zucolillo began this business when he was ambassador to the United Kingdom, before becoming Rodriguez' minister of industry and commerce. It is calculated that they made profits of $300 million.

The documents pertaining to these operations are dated 1980-1987. Paraguay purchased weapons from Germany, Chile, and Brazil but in fact they were sent to South Africa and Iraq. Jose Maria Fernandez, recently appointed director general of the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry, was in charge of making the contacts for this business in Washington, DC, where he was commissioned to the Paraguayan Embassy. He offered this service to any country that would be interested.

Health, Interior Ministries Replacements Named

PY0302231493 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 3 Feb 93 p 11

[Text] After the resignation of Interior Vice Minister Juan Carlos Galaverna, the executive branch yesterday designated Ruben Villalba Cataldi as his replacement. Villalba was Interior Ministry secretary general.

Galaverna, who remained in his post for approximately seven months, now has rejoined the Chamber of Deputies.

Other Designations

Victor Romero was named health and social welfare vice minister yesterday. He replaced Carlos Insfran Ojeda, who resigned.

In the same ministry, the president designated Jose Aveiro Cuenca to replace Luis Guillermo Benitez, the ministry's administrative director, who had submitted his resignation.

In keeping with the managerial restructuring process under way within the Itaipu binational organization, Hector Richer Becker was designated Management Council member. He replaces Zoilo Rodas Rodas.

Joaquin Rodriguez Villalba was designated Itaipu Management Council member. He replaces Angel M. Villalba Gimenez.

Peru

Camet on Support Group, Economic Measures

PA0302211293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] On 2 February Economy Minister Jorge Camet denied news agency reports that the creation of the Support Group had been suspended. He added he will immediately travel to Washington when the date of the Support Group meeting is known. The minister also referred to the inflation figures for January.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Reporter] On 2 February a news agency reported that the creation of the Support Group faces some problems. Do you have information about this?

[Camet] I have learned about the report and, unfortunately, it is not true. The truth is, I can assure you, the United States and Japan have agreed to sponsor the Support Group. The meeting was delayed a few days until the Clinton administration and new U.S. officials, some of whom have yet to be approved by the U.S. Congress, take office. The meeting will be held after that. There is absolutely no problem. You can rest assured about that.

[Reporter] How long before the meeting is held, Minister?

[Camet] Either late this week or early next week. This is not a major issue, and it does not change the approval of the Monetary Fund directorate board members, which is scheduled for 24 February. The date has not changed at all. It is an extremely important date.

[Reporter] What are your plans for the negotiations?

[Camet] I will travel as soon as the date is set.

[Reporter] Could there be changes in the next few months?

[Camet] You can rest assured we will meet the goals we have pledged with the IMF, meaning not more than 30 percent inflation this year.

[Reporter] Transportation leaders requested a new increase.

[Camet] Not only the transportation leaders. We will not negotiate constantly with producers for them to control their prices, because the prices have been released. Other measures can also be applied, including a program to reduce inflation. There is no doubt about this.

[Reporter] What will be the first measure adopted to prevent another increase in the inflation level?

[Camet] Some of them are essential, including a strict control on expenses and austerity, and we will continue to enforce those measures. We want to reduce the level of inflation and you will see the results. I want you to wait two or three months. [end recording]

Article Evaluates Challenges Clinton Faces

PY0202232793 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 25 Jan 93 p B6

[Article by Alberto Mosquera]

[Text] Bill Clinton is already at the command of the First World power. After his inauguration he announced what was already expected due to his country's critical situation. The problems at home will get his maximum attention. "We must invest more in our own people and in our own future, and at the same time reduce our large debt" are Clinton's comments, revealing the bottleneck the new president will have to break to fulfill his goals at home.

We say this because it will not be easy for the President to reconcile the need for public investments in delicate areas such as health, education, infrastructure, etc. with the urgent need to put public finances in order by starting, as announced by Clinton, to reduce the U.S. foreign debt, which is the largest in the world.

The challenge will be even greater if we look at things beyond only the needs at home. It should not be forgotten that foreign needs also are changing. Since the Cold War's end, the world has not had a more-or-less defined outlook.

I am referring to the open struggle being carried out by the main world powers for economic leadership. Some observers have labeled this process as the "hot peace," in other words, once the fear of a military confrontation was over, what emerged was a harsh economic confrontation.

The signs of this competition are in the open. The difference that has not yet been solved between the United States and the EC over the problem of agricultural subsidies and the desire to establish the policy of regional blocs are some of the issues in the struggle.

The turn the Clinton administration will make can be explained by looking at the issues from the viewpoint of competition for economic supremacy. For example, the United States is below Japanese and German development in health and education. In addition, we are going through times where the positive aspects of human development, especially education, is vital to pushing the car of science and technology. Responsibility would be an obvious concession to the competitors, which Clinton apparently does not want to give.

But getting into this area will create other problems for Clinton. On one hand he will have to face the urgent educational needs demanded by the current scientific and technological development, where quality prevails over quantity. On the other hand he also will quickly have to try solving the alarming unemployment rate in the United States, where job positions are more important than qualifications.

Everything seems to indicate that the issues will not be easy for the new president to solve. Worse yet, due to its role of world policeman, which the United States has not resigned, as shown by its recent actions in Somalia and Iraq, it will have to respond either with "peaceful diplomacy" or with force "when necessary," according to Clinton's words.

Commentator Views Clinton's 'Problems'

PY0302001293 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Jan 93 p A23

[Article by Anibal Ismodes Cairo: "Clinton's Consulate"]

[Text] People like to see those in power surrounded by lights. Americans have been no exception to this since the time Democratic Party President Andrew Jackson burst into the White House with as many plebeians as he could for the celebration.

Ever since then the presidential inauguration has been a time for joy and noisy celebration. The greater the expectations over the new president, the noisier the celebration. On some occasions the winner delivers a speech in which he reaffirms the pact of confidence and optimism that the nation needs. I remember the speeches by Franklin Roosevelt in 1933 when depression was hitting that country of utopian ideas, and by John F. Kennedy who gave the treasure of his youth proposing new hopes. Bill Clinton, the winner of the latest elections, has continued the tradition. Many are striving to get invitations to ceremonies, while many have bought medicines to overcome their hangovers. Washington is enjoying some days of celebration, which obviously are not holidays.

All this is done to achieve a more realistic view of the "manifest destiny," which is part of the imperial position that the United States has assumed. A considerable number of U.S. citizens, however, do not like this position. They would prefer an isolation that is obviously not possible in a world that science, economy, and technology have turned into an indivisible network.

Consequently, Clinton faces immediate responsibilities everywhere. Saddam Husayn is Asia's problem, while Somalia is Africa's. Mexico and Canada are demanding U.S. attention, while the European mess has not yet been settled because it is not just Yugoslavia and the new Balkan republics that are trapped in a fight that has filled European ideology with skepticism; France is opposing the GATT in order to satisfy its "chauvinistic" farmers. There is also the European Common Market, with its impressive economic potential. It is not yet known whether this market will be another stronghold of free

trade, or whether it will become an independent bloc like an inaccessible castle on a mountain with insurmountable barriers for U.S. products.

There are other problems that range from blood red to optimistic blue. What will be the relation between a stronger position in defense of human rights and the situations in countries like Haiti and Peru?

How will Clinton reconcile the political and economic interest of Taiwan and the PRC?

The Israelis and Palestinians have their own hell, while the situation in Cambodia is not really all that good. Can Yeltsin's words be considered trustworthy, considering he is being harassed by a Congress made up of enemies, dealers, and militarists determined to refuse to back the missile reduction agreement reached at the end of last year?

A U.S. president cannot, therefore, concentrate just on domestic issues—which should by no means be ignored either. Clinton was elected because he was believed to be more domestic than George Bush and because this attitude is believed to be necessary. A crisis was affecting the economy and even though the Republican President was expected to overcome it, the solution came late.

There was, however, an electoral message that Clinton does not seem to be willing to forget. The designation of his assistants is revealing in this regard. Texan aristocrat Lloyd Bentsen is a good example of this. He wants to reactivate the economy with fiscal measures and will be backed by Mr. Panetta [Director of the Office of Management and Budget]. Other examples include Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown and Carol Browner as head of the Environmental Protection Agency. Browner is backed by Vice President Gore and Mrs. Clinton—who is known for her active dynamism. The recipe of imposing higher taxes on the rich may no longer be implemented. The end of the crisis has made this unnecessary. However, it remains there as a sword of Damocles because health and education programs will need the resources that educator Richard Riley will demand.

The truth is that the economic program that was begun by Reagan and continued by Bush has proven strong and able to defend itself. If there were elections now I don't think Clinton would win as comfortably as he did in November. We must wish him success, not only out of affection but also out of interest. Peruvians cannot be indifferent to what happens in the United States. We have not been endowed with the indifference that comes from the weight of power.

OAS Observer Confirms Fairness of Elections

PA0402042893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Mario Gonzalez, chief of the OAS observer mission, has said the Peruvian people freely expressed their will in the elections by going out to vote in great numbers. Gonzalez made the announcement shortly after meeting with Jaime Yoshiyama, president of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD].

During the first official visit that OAS delegates paid to the CCD president, the chief of the OAS observer mission to the recent municipal elections confirmed the fairness of the process held on 29 January. Gonzalez said there was no fraud or any other type of negative action, except for logistical problems, which are being studied by the National Election Board [JNE].

Gonzalez went to the CCD accompanied by technical assistants working on the modernization of the electoral registry and the JNE, which is led by Cesar Polack.

Gonzalez not only praised the democratic way in which people voted, but also confirmed that he will remain in Peru until the process concludes. The electoral process has been postponed because of the suspension of the elections in Puno Department.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] Once again the Peruvian people have defeated the terrorists and have been able to freely express their political will and to elect their local authorities. The problems that have emerged are well known by all. Evidently there have been some logistical problems. We believe there were no cases of fraud, and we did not observe any acts of fraud anywhere in the country. The only problems we observed were problems of organization and logistics, which unfortunately prevented the elections from being held in certain Puno Department districts and caused problems in other districts. [end recording]

Rebels, Seized Materiel Presented to Press

PA0302190193 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] General Nicolas de Bari Hermoza, commander of the Armed Forces Joint Command, has presided over a ceremony at the Puno garrison to honor soldiers killed in action fighting the rebels. The Army then presented 11 terrorists captured in Sandia Province.

The courageous soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division of Puno were decorated for their heroic defense of the fatherland during a terrorist attack in Limbani, Sandia Province. Lieutenant Francisco Mina Bellido and soldiers Oswaldo (Quispe Quispe) and Pedro Machaca Condori who were killed during that attack were given posthumous promotions. Sergeant Victor Ticona Flores took command when his superior officer was killed. He forced the attackers to flee and eight rebels were killed, including one woman.

Policemen later showed the war materiel seized and presented to the press nine terrorists from Shining Path and two from the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement [MRTA] who will be tried according to the law.

[Begin unidentified police officer recording] We now present to the press: Facundo (Gil Pecoa), alias Comrade

Abraham; (Ella Condori Zapata); subversive criminal Mariano (Marron Cuestar); Teodoro (Moroko Aparta); Venancio Mendoza (Cifarra); Silvestre Mamani Mamani); Pedro (Quimbe) Mamani; subversive criminal Prudencio Valencia Mamani; Jesus Ventura Mamani; Jorge Mamani Roque, who participated in the attack against the police station in Sandia; Jeronimo Emiliano Troncos Galarza, a support unit of the MRTA in Sandia and Azagaro Provinces. [end recording]

The commander of the Armed Forces Joint Command personally inspected the area and disclosed aspects of the countersubversive struggle being waged in the northern area of Puno Department.

Garcia Comments on Extradition Request Rejection

PA0402140793 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Former President Alan Garcia Perez, who is exiled in Colombia, said during a 3 January news conference that the Colombian Government's rejection of Peru's request for his extradition does not harm relations between the two countries. As Augusto Cubillas, our correspondent in Santa Fe de Bogota, reported, the former president said nothing or no one will keep him from returning to the political arena.

[Begin Cubillas recording] The former president said the Colombian people can be certain they did not grant asylum to a criminal as there will never be a shred of evidence to justify the crass charges that the Peruvian right and the dictatorship have used to try to besmirch his name. The former president said he never doubted the Colombian Government would reject the extradition request filed by the Peruvian Supreme Court. Garcia also noted that the Colombian Government's decision does not mean the Peruvian right, dictatorship, or economic forces will cease trying to keep him from returning to that country's political arena. According to the former president, the war against Alan Garcia will continue for a long time. When asked about the possibility that the Fujimori administration will break relations with Colombia for reaffirming the asylum it granted Garcia, the former president said it would be an irrational action, more like a tantrum than a state decision. Garcia said the integration of peoples is above one person. To conclude, he stated: The Colombian decision is very important, and I am grateful for it. I wish I could do something for Colombia, for its welfare and peace. Beyond that generous and just decision —which honors me because it had the unanimous support of the former Colombian presidents who are members of the advisory commission—I will not let myself become a topic to divide the two countries. [end recording]

General Notes Effect of Politics on Military

PY0302204093 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 28 Jan 93 p 16

[Article by retired Division General J. German Parra H.: "Politics Divides the Armed Forces"]

[Text] The political speeches during the "spontaneous" and "strictly military" meeting of Armed Forces and Peruvian National Police commanders at the Army General Barracks on 14 January noted the following—in a few words more or less: There are attempts to destabilize, divide, and destroy our institutions; press commentaries affect the basic fabric of military discipline; and there are people knocking at the barracks' doors. In something like a Freudian puzzle, those who affirm are denying and those who deny are affirming. From what is being said I can infer that something is happening in the Armed Forces. My suppositions were confirmed by the Armed Forces supreme commander when stating that he could not say that nothing was happening because he knows of certain commanders' uneasiness. (LA REPUBLICA 19 Jan). Division within the Armed Forces would be the worst thing that could happen to Peru in the midst of a situation of subversive violence, extreme poverty, recession, unemployment, and threats on the external front.

This article proposes that politics divide the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces are institutions of tutelage. Their field of action is above and beyond political conflicts. The Armed Forces are subordinated to the constitutional political power to fulfill constitutional functions. This responsibility grants it special characteristics. It must be vertically structured, with a hierarchical order, and must act united. Each level of the pyramid structure has a chief. The chief is a factor of command and union. The chief must see that his subordinates occupy their positions and totally fulfill their role. Discipline is a need for any organization. Discipline is essential for the Armed Forces. Discipline—as was stated by Jacinto Benavente—does not mean that an idiot orders others who are not idiots to obey him, or that they must blindly fulfill orders. Discipline is in effect when each one takes his place and fulfills his assigned role.

Politics is unethical, it involves disagreements and rhetorical opposing positions. Politics divide and confront. That is why the military institution must be apolitical, must stay clear from political squabbling. This is one of the commanders' responsibilities. Regrettably, our armed institutions have been politicized. The process began with the militarization of the political fight against subversion. The main factor in the fight against subversion today is the military factor. The worst part is that the success in the military-police field is not reflected in the political, economic, and social fields.

During the first days of this administration the SIN [National Intelligence Service], a presidential political and nonmilitary instrument, formulated a two-point

psychological operations plan: 1. Peru's No. 1 one enemy is the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance], not the Shining Path; and 2. Peru's No. 1 enemy is Alan Garcia, not Abimael Guzman. This information was leaked to the APRA leadership. The plan was to return to the crude anti-APRAism of past years that inflicted so much damage on our society. On top of this, some of the 126 legislative decrees issued by the government changed National Defense System regulations as a result of the resentment generated by the Defense Ministry's creation. The Law on the Military Situation adopted procedures making the politicalization of the Armed Forces command possible. I warned our public about this. (LA REPUBLICA 22 Jan 1991).

When Division General Nicolas Hermoza took over the CCFA [Armed Forces Joint Command] on 2 Jan 1992 he gave a political speech in front of the president. I warned of the dangers involved in this position. (LA REPUBLICA 14 Jan 1992). Congress' Permanent Commission summoned the defense minister but nothing was corrected.

The 5 April self-inflicted coup and the 13 November counterattack are consequences of the Armed Forces' politicalization. The Armed Forces not only supported the self-inflicted coup but also planned the use of troops, which made it a participant.

On 8 July 1992, during the ceremony commemorating the Army's institutional solidarity and union, officers offered political speeches in the barracks. This interference did not need to knock at the barracks' doors. The incident was publicly analyzed. (LA REPUBLICA 21 Jul 92)

To summarize, Fujimori politicized the Armed Forces. He placed it at the same level as that of the political power. This affected discipline if we consider that discipline demands the military's subordination to the Constitution. Fujimori today is trying to correct this mistake: "I must clearly say that the military power is not above political power" (LA REPUBLICA 19 Jan). They are not above political power, but neither should they be at the same level of civilian power. They should be subordinated to the constitutional political power to fulfill constitutional roles and not to participate in politics. Politics divide. The division will weaken the military and those who support division commit treason, as the bulletin Air Force Spirit 1 [Espiritu Aereo N 1] says.

Uruguay

State Unions Confront Government on Salaries

PY0302204693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0732 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Montevideo, 3 Feb (EFE)—Disagreements between the government and state labor unions over salary matters in Uruguay have unleashed a number of strikes in the public services and fuel distribution area: in the past few days.

The government has announced a 10 percent salary increase, but the unions consider such a percentage insufficient because the inflation rate in January was 4 percent.

Simultaneous with the salary increase announcement, the government proposed to its workers a salary agreement for the next two years based on productivity.

The union representatives have agreed to talk over the productivity issue but only after an improvement in the salary increase proposed by the government, because the current increase includes a loss in the purchasing power of state workers' salaries because the inflation rate in the last four months was higher than 13 percent.

The state employees, who consider themselves victims of the reduction of state expenditures as a result of the economic adjustment agreed upon with the IMF, have expressed their decision not to accept more salary reductions.

According to official statistics, the purchasing power of state workers' salaries dropped 19.2 percent in 1990, the first year of President Luis Alberto Lacalle's government, had a recovery of 7.2 percent in 1991, and dropped 5.1 percent in 1992.

In 1992 the loss in the purchasing power of salaries in the public sector was 3.2 percent in October, 1.5 percent in November, and 2.5 percent in December.

The inflation rate during those months was 3.69, 1.69, and 3.28 percent, respectively, and the year ended with an accrued rate of price increases amounting to 58.91 percent.

To the demands of workers from state companies and most state unions are added those of teachers, who have threatened not to start school activities in March if a 100 percent salary increase is not approved in advance.

Teachers are considered to be paid "the lowest salaries" among all public employees.

To the demands of elementary and high school teachers are now added those of university professors, who have publicly announced that classes will not begin unless their demands are met.

The government has stated that it is in no position to grant salary increases higher than those announced because it also would imply an increase in tax payments, which are at their highest level.

So far, fuel shortages caused by partial stoppages in the state petroleum company, which monopolizes the refinery of petroleum, have been the first effect of the state workers' complaints.

Economic Goals Promised to IMF Viewed

PY0402180393 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Text] Even though it announced that it will reduce public expenses and increase tax collection, the government will have to adopt additional measures to comply with the fiscal balance goal agreed upon with the IMF for 1993.

The IMF mission which left Montevideo yesterday, bound for Washington, concluded that the measures already announced by the executive branch will not prevent Uruguay from closing its fiscal year with a deficit slightly smaller than 0.4 percent of the Gross Domestic Produce, GDP.

This is why the government economic team has analyzed the adoption of complementary measures to collect an additional $35 to $40 million in order to reach the fiscal balance Uruguay promised.

Government and IMF experts projected a growth rate of 3 percent for the GDP for 1993, one or two points above that promised by the Uruguayan Government to the IMF in its 1992 letter of intent.

A new IMF mission is scheduled to arrive in Montevideo next May to evaluate the goals accomplished during the first quarter of the year. It will also study, with the executive branch, future relations between Uruguay and the IMF in face of the expiration of the standby credit [sentence as heard].

Venezuela

Deputy Views Court Ruling Rejecting Trial

PA0402032193 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Regarding the Supreme Court of Justice decision to reject the request to try President Carlos Andres Perez, Democratic Action [AD] Deputy Paulina Gamuz said it deserves respect. Gamuz stated that there is nothing to be gained by beginning a trial against the president.

[Begin Gamuz recording] I have no opinion on this matter because I am not familiar with the proceedings. However, I believe the Supreme Court decision should be respected because it was not made by one person, but by 12 magistrates who cannot be questioned by public opinion. [end recording]

Regarding the agenda that will be discussed on 4 February by the AD National Executive Committee, Paulina Gamuz explained that there will be two debates, one political and the other administrative. In the political debate, the discussion will focus on the reports that will be presented by the AD president, secretary general, and the president of the Republic. The administrative discussion will underscore the party statute reform presented by AD Organization Secretary Lewis Perez and other important issues, such as the next presidential elections.

Students Demonstrate in Caracas, Ocumare del Tuy

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[Text] Caracas, 4 Feb (EFE)—On 4 February students from various high schools and universities staged disturbances in Caracas and in Ocumare del Tuy, a city located 40 km from the capital city, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the foiled coup of 4 February 1992.

Students burned tires and fought the security corps with stones and other blunt objects at the Central University of Venezuela (UCV) and at the Coche Technical School in Caracas. In Ocumare del Tuy, the students protested over the terrible conditions of the school buildings and because the public transportation sector has not complied with preferential rates for students.

The National Guard was able to control the demonstrators who threw rocks at shops and the Municipal Council building in Ocumare del Tuy.

The directors of many Caracas schools decided on 3 Feburary to suspend classes for fear there would be disturbances similar to the ones that took place in 1992 when some 12 students were killed. The authorities have not reported any casualties during the 4 February incidents that forced shop owners to close their stores for fear of looting.

Meanwhile, a mass was held at the Caracas cathedral in memory of those killed during the 4 February coup attempt, the first of two that took place in Venezuela in 1992 and with the participation of approximately 2,000 members of the Venezuelan Armed Forces.